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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

How are you doing on your New Year's resolutions so far?

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INSIDE

BUSINESS



Japanese and U.S. investigators begin probe into Boeing's 787 jets.

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WORLD



Militants from Africa and two from Canada led the Algerian hostage-taking.

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LIFE & STYLE



Michelle Obama made it a fashion tradition Monday night.

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Obama inauguration brings renewed hope to CNMI. **PAGE 3**
Inos recuses self from handling Fund lawsuit. **PAGE 5**

House initiates impeachment bid

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

By a vote of 19-0, the House of Representatives approved yesterday the “initiation” of impeachment proceedings, shortly after Speaker Joseph Deleon Guerrero (IR-Saipan) introduced a resolution impeaching Gov. Benigno R. Fitial for 18 allegations of corruption, felony, and neglect of duty and his creation of a seven-member Special Investigating Committee on Impeachment.

» **Fitial says House intent on moving process to Senate**

The special panel expects to wrap up its report and recommendation to the full House by the end of January or early February.

During yesterday morning's session, the speaker clarified that the 19-0 vote was not to adopt the impeachment resolution, but only to start or initiate the process to address “questions raised” and “clarify” a provision in the NMI Constitution referring to impeachment.

Deleon Guerrero was referring to Article 2 Section 8, which states, “The

House of Representatives may initiate impeachment proceedings by the affirmative vote of two-thirds of its members and the Senate may convict after hearing by the affirmative vote of two-thirds of its members.”

He said there is no question that once the resolution is on the floor for action, it will require two-thirds affirmative vote for the process to move to the Senate.

What raises concern is whether the “initiation” of such proceedings also needs two-thirds affirmative vote. To ad-

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MINORITY BLOC

Members of the House minority bloc, from left, Reps. Felicidad Ogumoro (R-Saipan), Richard Seman (R-Saipan), Teresita Santos (R-Rota) and minority leader George Camacho (R-Saipan) confer on a proposal by Vice Speaker Frank Dela Cruz (IR-Saipan) to reject Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's communication extending the declaration of a state of emergency for the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., during yesterday's session on Capital Hill. Dela Cruz later withdrew his motion to make way for floor leader Ralph Demapan's (Cov-Saipan) planned bill amending a law to ensure that a House and Senate rejection of such emergency declarations will have “full force and effect.”

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Fitial sends DPS chief nominee to Senate

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial nominated yesterday Sgt. James C. Deleon Guerrero to serve as Department of Public Safety commissioner. The Senate Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigations said it stands ready to hold a public hearing on the nomination once the required documents are submitted to the Senate.

The appointment requires the Senate's advice and consent.

Deleon Guerrero prevailed in his lawsuit against DPS over the department's discriminatory practices in promotion

and hiring.

The nomination comes almost a year after the DPS commissioner post became vacant and was filled alternately—in an acting capacity—by deputy commissioner Ambrosio Ogumoro and director of Police Aniceto Ogumoro. The two are brothers.

Fitial's failure to nominate a permanent DPS commissioner is one of the new articles in an impeachment resolution that the House leadership formally introduced yesterday.

The governor sent out two letters and a memo yesterday: One letter was addressed to Deleon Guerrero nominating

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Lack of respiratory therapists worries CHC

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Despite the best efforts of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. to recruit respiratory therapists, the public hospital continues to experience a shortage in this area, according to CEO Juan N. Babauta.

The dearth of respiratory therapists at the Commonwealth Health Center was earlier identified by the U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid as among the major

concerns that need immediate rectification.

Babauta disclosed that the Respiratory Therapy Department of CHC is losing therapists, a concern that if not immediately addressed would impact the hospital's services.

He disclosed that the hospital has only two full time respiratory therapists and one part-time.

Ideally, Babauta said, the RT department must have four to five full-time therapists and maybe two part-

See CHC on Page 4



Babauta

Local

MLK DAY SPEAKER'S MESSAGE TO THE YOUTH

'Education is the gateway to every opportunity in life'

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

Senior appellate attorney Paula R. Bruner of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission's Office of General Counsel advises young members of the community to commit to getting an education, saying that it is the "gateway to every opportunity in life."

At the same time, Bruner urged the CNMI's youth not to let any setback and disappointment get in the way in pursuit of their educational goals and dreams.

The visiting lawyer served as the keynote speaker during Monday's Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day celebration at the American Memorial Park Visitors Center.

Organized by the African-American Cultural Preservation Committee, Inc., this year's event has the theme "I Have A Dream: Education is Key."

In her remarks, Bruner cited as an example her own experience in obtaining her collegiate and law school education, which proved King's teachings that no person can rein in your dreams.

Growing up as the younger child of two educators, Bruner said it was expected of her to attend college. At an early age, she dreamed of becoming a lawyer to fight for those who are vulnerable and disenfranchised.

Bruner envisioned receiving her law degree from Howard University, where famous personalities and public figures have studied, thinking this would be the key to her success.

But financial difficulties as well as negative remarks and opinions threatened to get in Bruner's way of achieving her dream. In spite of the odds, the young New Jersey native persevered and subsequently received a full academic scholarship from her dream school.

"Life has taught me that most setbacks are setups for come-



Erica White-Dunston sings the Negro National Anthem as Abel Pellegrino looks on.



Viola Alepuyo of the CNMI Attorney General's Office introduces the guest speaker.

backs," she said.

Bruner noted that U.S. President Barack Obama's pursuit of higher education was vital to his aspiration for the White House. She said one's personal determination, familial and community support, as well as

great and committed teachers are instrumental in realizing educational goals.

Additionally, Bruner said she received "informal" education through social interactions and upon entering the workforce where she learned about char-

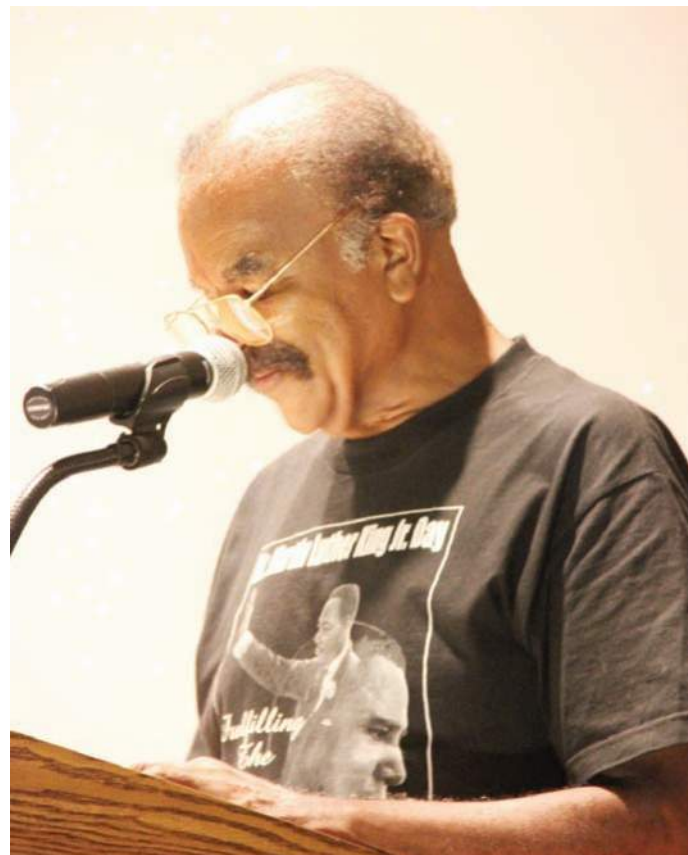
acter, trust, discernment and determination, office politics, and social climbing.

"In this informal classroom I learned that it is essential to protect your dreams and your reputation and to affirm your professional relationships. Most importantly, I learned to do what is right even when it is not necessarily popular," she said.

While she emphasized the importance of education—whether formal or informal, collegiate or vocational, public or private—Bruner pointed out that anyone can still be great even if the person is not inspired by educational attainment.

"As Dr. King said, everybody can be great because anybody can serve. You don't have to have a college degree to serve. You only need a heart full of grace and a soul generated by love. When you serve, you will find that therein lies a valuable education in itself because helping others actually help you," said Bruner.

Her inspirational speech cul-



African-American Cultural Preservation Committee president Joe Hill welcomes attendees.

minated with her and friend Erica White-Dunston, former EEOC colleague who now works for the U.S. Internal Revenue Service, singing the Happy Birthday song composed by Stevie Wonder for the prominent civil rights leader.

Bruner received a plaque of appreciation from AACPC president Joe Hill and secretary Ellen Delos Santos.

Viola Alepuyo of the CNMI Attorney General's Office, who introduced Monday's keynote speaker, said the public can help the youth in the Commonwealth through hard work and commitment to the young learners' education.

Monday's event also announced the winners of the MLK student poster and banner contests. Elementary winners were sixth grader Mike Angela Charfauros of Tanapag Elemen-

tary School, who bagged second place and won \$20 and a certificate. First place winners were also from Tanapag Elementary School: Alvonny Cepeda, Chase Norita, and Grant Indengi, who each won \$30 and a certificate.

For the high school category, winning first place were MCS tenth graders Andrea Lazaro and Konie Romolor, who each won \$50 and a certificate. Second place went to Mount Carmel School 10th graders Peter Babauta and Sung Jung Hung, who each won \$35 and a certificate.

Certificates were also handed out to organizers and event sponsors: American Memorial Park, NMI Humanities Council, Hyatt Regency Saipan, Pacific Islands Club, Saipan Ocean View Hotel, Mariana Resort & Spa, CNMI Bar Association, and Aqua Resort Club.



Contest winner Andrea Lazaro poses with keynote speaker Paula R. Bruner for a photo on stage.



Senior appellate attorney Paula R. Bruner, center, receives her plaque of appreciation from African-American Cultural Preservation Committee president Joe Hill and secretary Elena Delos Santos.

Obama inauguration brings renewed hope to CNMI

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Island residents may be miles away from Washington, D.C. for the presidential inauguration but they are nevertheless hopeful that President Barack Obama's second term in office will have positive impacts on Commonwealth immigration and economy.

"I am still optimistic that immigration reform will happen. That's what has been expected by Hispanics that helped Obama win a second term," said Carlito Marquez, a long-term foreign worker and leader.

If the U.S. Labor secretary does not extend the immigra-

tion federalization transition, the number of transitional foreign workers would have to be zeroed after Dec. 31, 2014.

Many foreign workers in the CNMI said a more proper way of addressing this is to grant improved immigration status such as permanent residency or "green card" to long-term, legal guest workers.

Bonifacio Sagana, president of Dekada Movement, said he believes that Obama's promise of immigration reform will happen during his second term in office.

He said this will also grant the wish of long-term guest workers in the CNMI "to have

improved status."

The Fitial administration, for its part, is "curious to see how President Obama's new policies, if any, could impact the Commonwealth," said press secretary Angel Demapan.

Demapan said the president is taking on a new term, reorganizing several of his Cabinet with more expected in the coming weeks.

"So definitely, the [Fitial] administration is interested to see whether or not his new policies under a new leadership team will have significant impacts on the CNMI and the territories. Nonetheless, the administration is ready to respond to any inqui-

ries from the Obama administration and more importantly, the governor and lieutenant governor are ready to work with them to ensure that the interests of the Commonwealth are taken into consideration. That's simply what it is, safeguarding the interests of our remote island communities to ensure that decisions made thousands of miles away are prudent and conducive to our island economy and way of life," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Rene Reyes, president of Marianas Advocates for Humanitarian Affairs Ltd. or Mahal, separately shared his "optimism that Obama is very serious in pushing this," referring to immigra-

tion reform.

"We want him to make this a priority, not next month, not next year, but now, before thousands of guest workers will be forced to leave the CNMI after December 2014. We want to let him know that CNMI guest workers legally entered and continue to work legally here, we pay taxes, and many have U.S. citizen children who are contributing their talent and are serving in the U.S. military," Reyes said.

Obama took his oath of office on Martin Luther King Jr. Day in Washington, D.C. (early Tuesday morning, CNMI time). CNN reports said the flag-

waving crowd that watched the event was noticeably smaller than the throng that turned out for Obama's first oath in 2009, but still packed the National Mall for blocks.

Because of time difference and distance, most CNMI residents get to see the replays of the inaugural celebrations only on television.

The celebrations came a day after Obama was sworn in on the constitutionally required date in a low-key ceremony at the White House.

In his speech, Obama said, "We are made for this moment, and we will seize it—so long as we seize it together."

Bill strengthening laws vs sex crimes first to pass 18th House

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Rep. Edmund Villagomez's (Cov-Saipan) bill strengthening laws against sex crimes and domestic violence was the first bill to pass the 18th House of Representatives during its session yesterday that also saw the adoption of Rep. Teresita Santos' (R-Rota) House Resolution 18-3 recognizing Antenille Maratita Mendiola Santos for being the 2012 Teacher of the Year for Dr. Rita H. Inos Jr./Sr. High School.

Villagomez's House Bill 18-3 passed by a vote of 19-0 yesterday, weeks after Gov. Benigno R. Fitial vetoed his original bill because of "some very serious concerns."

"We addressed the governor's concerns; we made further clarification so that there won't be misinterpretation of the law," he said in an interview after the session.

HB 18-3, which now goes to

the Senate, strengthens provisions regarding sex crimes and domestic violence by establishing minimum mandatory sentence for sexual assault and sexual abuse of a minor, increasing the time-served component necessary for parole eligibility, and amending existing definitions to clarify provisions relating to sex crimes and domestic violence.

During the session, Santos pointed to the absence of at least a brief committee report on the bill before the House votes on it. She said this will set bad precedent.

Villagomez said the bill took into consideration and addressed the governor's concerns on the bill, which are technical in nature, and worked closely with agencies and organizations dealing with these crimes.

Maisie Tenorio of the NMI Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence addressed the House during the session, urging the passage of the bill that

she said addresses the concerns that stakeholders and the administration raised.

Villagomez also said his bill's

findings explain how the bill addressed the governor's concerns. He said any technical errors that may have existed could eas-

ily have been addressed by the CNMI Law Revision Commission in the codification process.

HB 18-3 says any concerns

that the bill would result in fewer convictions because of the increased penalties were unsupported.



FERDIE DE LA TORRE

DUE TO MOUNTING REQUESTS FOR HELP DPL reduces land lease payments of some clients

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Acting Department of Public Lands secretary Pete Itibus disclosed to *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that the agency has provided assistance to some of its leasees by reducing their land lease payments due to the economic difficulties they are experiencing.

The decision to reduce some leases was made in a case-by-case basis, Itibus said, provided the clients have convincing evidence to justify their request for assistance.

DPL is tasked to handle land lease payments for all government lands and properties, the earnings of which must be remitted to the Marianas Public Land Trust. MPLT invests these monies to sustain government programs.

Itibus said yesterday that due to the bad economy that continues to impact residents and the business community, DPL does not expect to collect a lot of revenue this year and will not be able to remit to MPLT again.

"We're not collecting as much as we want to because we reduced the land lease payments due to mounting requests for assistance. The approval is on a case-by-case basis and they have to justify that they're not really meeting their obligations," said Itibus, adding that rental reduction is better than permanent closure or shutdown.

He disclosed that the last time DPL remitted to MPLT was in 2009 when it turned over \$2.5 million representing earnings from public land leases.

The non-remittance since 2009, he said, was primarily the result of the "non-surplus" recorded by the agency during those years.

Itibus explained that the NMI Constitution says that DPL has to deduct from its collections and revenues all administrative costs incurred for the agency's operation.

"If we generate \$2 million in a given year but if our administrative cost is \$3.5 million, how can we make the remittance to

MPLT? The law is very clear that any 'surplus' must go to MPLT. ...Unfortunately, we have no surplus," said Itibus.

In several letters to DPL, MPLT has consistently asked the land agency to share its records of transactions, including audits and financial records to be able to determine how much the government agency really earned in the many years it has been operating.

MPLT has accused DPL of hiding documents and earlier hinted at the possibility of bringing the matter to court.

According to Itibus yesterday, DPL is expecting the completion of the agency's audit report for fiscal year 2010 by the end of the month. However, the audits for fiscal years 2011 and 2012 have yet to commence, he added.

Without these audits and other records, Itibus said that DPL can not sit down with MPLT on the issue. He said DPL will wait for the completion of the requested audits before communicating with MPLT again.

Saipan Tribune learned that DPL will soon issue a request for proposal for the financial audit for fiscal years 2011 and 2012. Procurement regulations require that any contract beyond \$10,000 has to seek a request for proposal.

NEW VEHICLES

CNMI Office of Homeland Security special assistant Marvin K. Seman, third from left, is joined by other staff of Homeland Security and police officers at the Department of Public Safety during the Jan. 17, 2013, presentation of four new vehicles and one gator utility vehicle that were purchased through federal funds and handed over to DPS.

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Chief prosecutor withdraws motion to drop case vs Miah's wife

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

On Thursday, chief prosecutor Peter B. Prestley moved to dismiss a criminal case against the wife of Mohammed Jahangir Miah. Yesterday, Prestley informed the court that the government now wants to pursue the case against her.

A day after Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth Govendo dismissed the case against Miah, Prestley moved to drop a separate information charging Miah's wife, Cecilia Rosa N. Blas, with one count of receiving stolen property.

In the government's motion to dismiss without prejudice, Prestley said after further review of the case, the Commonwealth is not convinced it will be able to prove the charge "beyond a reasonable doubt."

The chief prosecutor requested the

court to exonerate any bail and travel documents to Blas.

In yesterday's request to withdraw the government's motion to dismiss, Prestley said the motion to dismiss was filed after the court found no probable cause at the preliminary hearing in a similar, related case against Miah.

Accordingly, the government then moved to dismiss the case against Blas so as not to prejudice her any further if the court would not ultimately find probable cause, Prestley said.

After reviewing Govendo's ruling in the Miah case and conducting further research, however, Prestley said the government now believes the judge should have found probable cause and is moving the court to reconsider its ruling.

Prestley said the government believes there is probable cause to contin-

ue prosecution in the case against Blas.

In the Miah case, the chief prosecutor said, Govendo found no probable cause for receiving stolen property where the property was not stolen.

Prestley said the government is asking the court to reconsider since proving that the property was "stolen" is not an element of receiving stolen property pursuant to the Commonwealth Code, which only requires reasonable belief that the property is stolen.

A purported sting operation against Miah for allegedly receiving a stolen video camera got turned on its head when it turned out that the camera actually belonged to the police and was never stolen at all.

As a result, Govendo dismissed the case against 38-year-old Miah.

At a preliminary hearing, Govendo basically agreed with Miah's counsel, Colin Thompson, that there was no

crime of receipt of stolen property as the camera was not a stolen property.

According to the prosecution, two persons who were earlier arrested for burglary agreed to help the police in finding other people engaged in receiving stolen items.

The two persons claimed that Miah was one of those receiving stolen items. The two then agreed to become cooperate with police during a sting operation against Miah.

Thompson said according to the cooperating sources, they told Miah that they had a stolen camera that they wanted to sell to him.

Thompson said the two claimed that Miah agreed to buy it and handed \$10.

The lawyer said when the two cooperating sources left the house, police arrested Miah.

Thompson argued that there was no stolen property because the property belonged to the police and it was always in the custody of the police.

In October 2012, police also arrested Miah for allegedly receiving stolen items belonging to William S. Reyes Elementary School.

Superior Court Associate Judge Perry B. Inos, however, dismissed the charges during a preliminary hearing after finding no probable cause to warrant the filing of the case.

In July 2012, the U.S. District Court for the NMI acquitted Miah for lack of corroborating evidence in a case of conspiracy to forge stale CNMI tax refund checks.

Miah is awaiting sentencing in federal court for conspiracy to unlawfully produce driver's licenses.

Suspected 'ice' supplier in CK falls

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Authorities arrested a woman who is allegedly active in selling methamphetamine or "ice" in Chalan Kanoa, Saipan, during a buy-bust operation on Thursday.

Zhong Qing Wang, 40, a Chinese national, was taken to the Superior Court yesterday on charges of illegal possession of a controlled substance and trafficking of controlled substance.

Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho imposed a \$50,000 cash bail and remanded Wang to the Department of Corrections.

Preliminary hearing will be on Jan. 28 at 9am.

Members of the CNMI Drug En-

forcement Task Force and the Department of Public Safety's Criminal Investigation Bureau arrested Wang after a "cooperating defendant" allegedly managed to purchase \$400 worth of "ice" with a weight gross of 1.30 gross grams.

Authorities also searched Wang's residence.

Drug Enforcement Task Force Dennis M. Reyes stated in his report that, on Thursday, Jan. 17, they met the "cooperating defendant" to arrange a buy-bust operation against a suspected "ice" supplier in Chalan Kanoa named Muya.

The "cooperating defendant" proceeded to the residence of Muya where he allegedly bought \$400 worth of "ice." Authorities later identified Muya as Wang.



JUNIOR ACHIEVERS

The CNMI Junior Achievement Program organizers, competitors, and guests gather for a group photo after the awarding ceremonies on Saturday at the Saipan World Resort.

MONETH G. DEPOSA

HOUSE

From Page 1

dress that question, the House voted on a motion to initiate the process.

Rep. Tony Sablan (IR-Saipan), chairman of the impeachment panel, made the motion to initiate proceedings, seconded by other members.

All the 19 House members present voted "yes" to initiate the proceedings, including four members of the minority bloc aligned with the governor or his Republican Party.

Only Rep. Ray Tebuteb (IR-Saipan) was absent; he was excused from the session.

Fitial, according to press secretary Angel Demapan, "respects that this issue is a function of the Legislature and he remains cognizant that the House is now controlled by the opposition who have repeatedly made known their intent to dispose of this item on their agenda."

"While the resolution has been referred to a special committee, the members of the House leadership have pretty much preconceived and declared their intent to pass the resolution and move the process up to the Senate. In view of this, the governor has no further comment to make at this point. Should the proceedings move up to the Senate, then it will be the appropriate time and forum for the governor to

respond to the articles lodged against him," Demapan told *Saipan Tribune*.

House Resolution 18-2, sponsored by the 16 members of the House leadership, was pre-filed on the same day the 18th Legislature took their oath of office on Jan. 14.

The number of sponsors is more than the minimum 14 "yes" votes required in the 20-member House to move the process to the Senate. At least six "yes" votes in the nine-member Senate are needed to convict.

This is the second time in CNMI history that an impeachment resolution has been introduced in the House.

Fitial is the subject of both impeachment bids in two consecutive years but the first one was shot down by his allies in the House during the previous Legislature.

Sablan said the special committee may hold its first official meeting on Thursday.

He and Deleon Guerrero asked all committee chairpersons to hold off acting on other measures until the impeachment panel has completed its work. They also asked impeachment panel members to participate in committee activities.

Vice Speaker Frank Dela Cruz (IR-Saipan) and Rep. Edmund Villagomez (Cov-Saipan) separately said they will be diligent in attending the committee meetings.

Besides Sablan, Dela Cruz and Vil-

lagomez, the other committee members are Rep. Chris Leon Guerrero (Cov-Saipan), House minority leader George Camacho (R-Saipan), Rep. Felicidad Ogumoro (R-Saipan), and Rep. Teresita Santos (R-Rota).

The House leadership said they are going to fulfill the "public mandate"—it said the public's message was that corruption, obstruction of justice, abuse of power, and the lack of transparency and accountability will not be tolerated.

The allegations against Fitial include his failure to timely appoint a chief justice, members of boards and commissions and Cabinet members; the use of a federal inmate temporarily taken out of prison to give him a massage during the wee hours in January 2010; no-bid award of an almost \$400,000 ARRA management contract to a former Cabinet official within days of resignation in 2010; failure to remove a former attorney general after it became clear that the AG used public funds and other resources for a political campaign or gathering; ordering or conspiring to use armed police and ports police officers to shield the former AG from being served a penal summons in connection with criminal charges filed against him; and the signing of a 25-year, \$190.8-million power purchase agreement with Saipan Development LLC.

Of the 18 allegations in H.R. 18-2, nine are for neglect, five for corruption, and four for commission of a felony.

CHC

From Page 1

time specialists in order to smoothly carry out the function of the unit.

A respiratory therapist is a specialized healthcare practitioner who educates, diagnoses, and treats people who are suffering from heart and lung problems.

Babauta said the corporation is actively recruiting for this hard-to-fill position as soon as possible to address the citations from CMS.

CHC's condition of participation in Medicare and Medicaid will be decided next month by the federal health

agency. Having enough respiratory therapists is a requirement for continued Medicare certification.

"We're still short of respiratory therapists at the hospital and this is one concern cited by Medicare that we need to immediately address or else it will affect our status with CMS," Babauta told *Saipan Tribune*.

The departure of many CHC employees, including RTs, was earlier blamed for the uncertainties at the public hospital. The corporation on average pays its respiratory therapists only \$14 per hour compared to higher offers for similar positions in Guam and the U.S. mainland.

DPS

From Page 1

him for the DPS commissioner post; the second letter was to Senate President Jude Hofschneider (R-Tinian) officially forwarding his nomination for Senate confirmation; and the third, a memo to department and activity heads notifying them of the new acting DPS commissioner.

Sen. Frank Cruz (R-Tinian), chairman of the Senate EAGI Committee, said yesterday that his panel looks forward to receiving the required documents from the nominee, including a copy of a statement of financial interests filed with and stamped by the Office of the Public Auditor, résumé, police clearance, drug test receipt, and drug test result.

"These documents have to be submitted first so that the committee members would be able to know about the

nominee, and then we would set a public hearing on the nomination," Cruz said.

Cruz, a former police officer, said having a DPS commissioner that's appointed by the governor and confirmed by the Senate "protects and preserves the integrity" of DPS.

His EAGI Committee reviews the governor's appointments, for report and recommendation to the full Senate.

House Speaker Joseph Deleon Guerrero (IR-Saipan), meanwhile, said the governor's appointment of a new acting DPS commissioner for Senate confirmation does not have a bearing on the impeachment resolution.

Beginning on or about March 2012 and continuing until the Jan. 14 filing of the articles of impeachment, the governor failed to nominate to the Senate a nominee for consideration and confirmation to serve as DPS commissioner, the impeachment resolution partly states.

Inos recuses self from handling Fund lawsuit

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge Perry B. Inos yesterday recused himself from presiding over the NMI Retirement lawsuit against Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and the CNMI government.

Inos said that after a review of the case file, he must recuse himself from handling this matter as his brother is a current government employee and a

member of the defined contribution plan.

"I am therefore returning this case to the Presiding Judge [Robert Naraja] for re-assignment to another judge of the Superior Court," said Inos in the order he wrote last week but e-filed in court yesterday.

Fund trustee *ad litem* Joseph C. Razzano on Friday moved to disqualify Inos, citing that his wife, Debra, is a retiree who receives regular Fund benefits.

Razzano also asked the court to totally disqualify Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo from the case through an order of total recusal and not only a partial recusal.

Razzano earlier moved to disqualify Govendo, the assigned judge in the Fund lawsuit, as Govendo had applied on Sept. 19, 2012, to withdraw his employee Fund contributions, amounting to more than \$50,000.

On Jan. 7, 2013, Govendo recused himself, but only from presiding over the Commonwealth Ports Authority's motion to have Razzano be held on contempt for allegedly failing to comply with Public Law 17-82.

Public Law 17-82 allows Fund members to withdraw the full amount of their contributions without separating from the government.

Following Govendo's recusal, Superior Court Presiding

Judge Robert Naraja assigned the case to Inos.

Razzano, through counsels Daniel J. Berman and Brad-dock J. Huesman, wants a disinterested, neutral judge or justice from Guam or any other U.S. jurisdiction to be temporarily designated to decide the merits that remain in the case and proceedings.

On the partial recusal issue, Razzano said the statute requires the judge in question to remove

himself from the entire legal action, not just a portion of it.

The Fund filed a lawsuit in Superior Court in 2006 against Fitial, the CNMI government, and co-defendants over the government's failure to remit required payments to the Fund.

In 2009, Govendo ruled that the government owes the Fund \$282 million in damages and that the law suspending government contributions to the Fund is unconstitutional.

Aetna explains 'deductibles' in new insurance policy

»Insurance carrier says new premium rates cheaper, with comprehensive coverage

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Many retirees and active government employees enrolled with Aetna International sought clarification yesterday on the changes in their new insurance policy, which includes an "applicable deductible" item that was never offered before.

Aetna International account manager Scott M. Muschel, in a special meeting with plan members yesterday, disclosed that prior to receiving the promised 80 percent coverage under the new plan, a member has to first meet the required threshold set by the carrier, also known as the applicable deductible.

For a single member of the policy, the applicable deductible is \$300 for the whole year. Every two weeks, a single employee and his/her employer re-

mit equal shares of \$82.45 each for the new policy.

A \$600 threshold is required for couples, the premium rate of which is set at \$169.02 each biweekly from employee and employer. For couples with domestic partners, the threshold is \$600 for the year and premium is \$255.58 biweekly for both.

For members categorized as family, the premium rate is \$263.83 each for employee and employer and assigned a deductible of \$900 for the year. For members classified as family including domestic partner, premium rate biweekly is \$346.28 for a similar \$900 annual threshold.

Muschel explained to members yesterday that a single member with required deductible of \$300 for the year has to first pay their full medical billing out of their own pockets

until they meet the threshold (deductible) amount. The official said that all transactions with providers will be reported to Aetna, which will monitor all medical recordings of members. Once the \$300 threshold is reached by a member, that's the only time he/she can receive 80 percent of the policy coverage. Deductible will apply to all covered expenses except prevention care and prescription drugs.

"You have to pay the deductible [threshold] before you can avail of the 80-20 percent plan coverage...and deductible starts over a year," Muschel said during the hourlong meeting at the Multi-Purpose Center.

According to Muschel, the "new price structure" was set in an aim to attract more membership to the plan. He said the new insurance policy for 2013 has a full comprehensive

medical plan for members and they can avail of services here and off-island. However, he warned that experimental procedures and cosmetic surgeries, among others, excluded in the policy.

Aetna has been the insurance carrier for NMI retirees and many active government employees since 2006. Muschel said their membership on the islands has been slightly decreasing since 2008, mostly due to members who opted to discontinue coverage due to concerns over the premiums.

When asked what convinced the company to offer a lower premium rate this year for the CNMI, he cited the financial challenges of the CNMI pension program and offering a lower rate could help the government extend the life of the program.

Despite the new policy, he proj-



MONETH G. DEPOSA

Aetna International account manager Scott Muschel explains to members yesterday the changes in the new insurance policy for retirees and active government employees for 2013.

ects a flat membership trend.

Muschel said that Aetna serves about 5,000 members, both retirees and active government employees.

He believes that the new premium rate is much more aligned with local carriers but with much more coverage.

Aetna's new policy for NMI members took effect Jan. 1 and

open enrollment begun on Jan. 14 through Feb. 15. The new policy is 18 percent lower than the fiscal year 2012 plan.

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Fitial calls on media to help promote NMI to tourists



CLARISSA V. DAVID

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial reads part of the proclamation designating Jan. 27 to Feb. 2 as Catholic Schools Week as Mount Carmel School president Galvin Deleon Guerrero and Fr. Ryan Jimenez look on at the Mount Carmel Cathedral's Joeten Dai Dai Social Hall yesterday.

By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The media will also play a role in the government's efforts to improve the Commonwealth as a destination and bring in more tourists, according to Gov. Benigno R. Fitial.

Fitial said in an interview yesterday that reporting positive things will help improve the quality of Saipan's product, which is the island itself.

"Reporting negatively will

not improve the product. In other words, there's a sense of collaboration between government and media," he said.

Fitial's statement comes after he convened his Cabinet officials for a meeting on Monday, which featured a presentation by Tan Holdings vice chair Willie Tan, whose corporation owns hotel resorts and travel and tour agencies in the Commonwealth.

Tan, Fitial said, expressed concern that tourist sites on is-

land should not only be kept clean but also safe.

Fitial said there will be 10 government agencies that will be involved in their renewed effort to address tourism and destination enhancement matters.

"Each agency or department will come in and they will report on what they can do to help improve the produce in the renewed effort to continue to bring tourists to the CNMI," he said, adding that each of the three islands in the Commonwealth has its own distinctive product.

Fitial disclosed that another meeting among agencies involved in the initiative is scheduled today.

"We will do our best within our resources but we will definitely improve this product," he added.



**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB 13-COTA-067**

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: FEBRUARY 08, 2013 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

**"PURCHASE OF FIVE (5) DESKTOP COMPUTERS FOR THE
COMMONWEALTH OFFICE OF TRANSIT AUTHORITY"**

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY IN LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.


THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT, AS SUCH: LOCAL PREFERENCE IS NOT AVAILABLE BECAUSE ITS USE IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW GRANTING FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT.

THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS, IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

/S/ THOMAS J. CAMACHO
SPECIAL ASSISTANT FOR PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S





**Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director**

**INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-13-014**

**GROUND MAINTENANCE SERVICES
FOR CUC WATER & WASTEWATER FACILITIES, SAIPAN**

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), Office of the Executive Director is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms capable of providing Ground Maintenance Services for CUC Water and Wastewater facilities in Saipan, in compliance with USEPA inspection and sanitary survey requirements.

The Bid Package may be obtained, upon receipt of a non-refundable payment from the CUC Treasury Section, by cash or check, in the amount of \$80.00 for one set; at the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-13-014, Ground Maintenance Services for CUC Water and Wastewater facilities, Saipan" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on February 21, 2013, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

A mandatory pre-bid conference followed by a site visit is scheduled for January 31, 2013 at 10:00 AM (ChST) at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building in Saipan, to ensure prospective bidders are fully aware of the work involved and familiarize with the site conditions.

CUC will award a contract to more than one firm for said services, based on bids for "Service Section" pursuant to Scope-of-Work.

Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidder due to lack of information or understanding of the site conditions in the course of bidder's preparation of a bid or performance of work under the contract. The IFB does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the bid under this request, or to procure or contract for services.

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations. CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

All inquiries must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on February 8, 2013 to Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Officer via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Paul Raczkowski, Water/Wastewater Manager via address paul.raczkowski@cucgov.org

ALAN W. FLETCHER
Acting Executive Director

Group marks first ever National Day of Service in NMI

In celebration of the National Day of Service, dozens of members of the CNMI community availed of a three-hour free health screening sponsored by the U.S. Pinoys for Good Governance Marianas Chapter, Marianas Eye In-

stitute, and Marianas Visiting Nurses last Saturday, Jan. 19, 2013, at the American Memorial Park auditorium in Garapan, Saipan.

This event was hosted and organized by Dr. Celia B. Lamkin, chairwoman of the USP4GG

Marianas chapter, in partnership with President Obama's Inaugural Committee.

Obama's call to volunteer during the National Day of Service aims to strengthen communities and to commemorate the birthday of civil rights leader

Martin Luther King Jr. This also tied in with inaugural activities in Washington, D.C.

"This was a historic event because this is the first time that the people of the CNMI participated in this National Day of Service and the inauguration of

a U.S. President," said Lamkin. "We had non-stop participants for the duration of the health screening. Even some guests of the American Memorial Park Museum had the chance to avail of the free health screening."

Participants received free blood pressure, blood sugar, and vision screening with corresponding printed results in addition to the Body Mass Index. Printed information on prevention of diseases and other health related information were also handed out.

Among the volunteers were teachers, nurses from the Marianas Visiting Nurses, an eye care technician and certified ophthal-

mic assistant of the Marianas Eye Institute, high school and college students, accountants, skilled workers, and physical therapists, among others.

"The outcome of this health screening was overwhelming because of the more than a dozen of volunteers with different specialties and community support. Some participants and volunteers pledged to become volunteers for the next health screening or any community events that we will undertake," said Lamkin.

For more information on how to join this volunteer program, email Lamkin at celia.lamkin@yahoo.com. (PR)



Dr. Celia B. Lamkin, chairperson of the US Pinoys for Good Governance Marianas chapter, poses with volunteers during the first ever National Day of Service on Saipan on Saturday at the American Memorial Park Auditorium.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CK diocese kicks off Catholic Schools Week

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial acknowledged the value of Catholic education among the youth of the CNMI after endorsing Jan. 27 to Feb. 2 as Catholic Schools Week in the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa, joining other Catholic schools across the nation in observance of the annual event.

Fitial signed the proclamation yesterday at the diocese's Joeten Daidai Social Hall in Chalan Kanoa, kicking off the weeklong celebration. The event was witnessed by church officials, students and staff of Mount Carmel School on Saipan and St. Joseph Catholic School on Tinian.

Both institutions are among the three Catholic schools in the Commonwealth. The third is the Eskuelan San Francisco de Borja on Rota.

The establishment of Mount Carmel School in 1952 her-

alded the beginning of Catholic education in the Northern Marianas, followed by the founding of Eskuelan San Francisco de Borja in 1989 and the St. Joseph Catholic School in 1997.

Four students from St. Joseph Catholic School, along with staff and parents, joined the proclamation signing, according to teacher Corazon Cepeda.

"We believe in the need to continue providing Catholic education on Tinian and we are pleased to be part of this event which would help the students increase their faith and socialize with fellow Catholic learners," said Cepeda.

In his proclamation, Fitial affirmed the three schools' commitment to providing a safe, structured, and caring learning environment dedicated to developing each student's God-given potential. The proclamation was read by MCS students.

According to the governor, Mount Carmel School is "very

dear" to him since he is part of the school's first batch of students.

"I am very blessed to be a product of Mount Carmel School and I am sure that all of you will be as proud as [I am] when you also graduate and continue to live the Catholic education that we cultivate here in Mount Carmel," Fitial told his young audience.

The theme for the 2013 Catholic Schools Week observance is "Catholic Schools: Raise the Standards."

Fr. Ryan P. Jimenez, diocese apostolic administrator, expressed hope that the values and teachings learned in Catholic schools will translate into action.

"Catholic education is not just about excellence in academics but it is about educating the whole person," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Mount Carmel School president Galvin Deleon Guerrero noted that the current school year marks the begin-

ning of their implementation of the National Standards and Benchmarks for Effective Catholic Elementary and Secondary Schools.

"It's important for our students to step up to the plate when it comes to meeting these higher standards and expectations for student performance," he said. "The world is more competitive and everyone needs to improve what they do."

Several activities have been lined up in observance of Catholic Schools Week, including community activities on Monday and a faculty and staff appreciation program on Wednesday.

The observance will culminate with the Family Night Celebration on Feb. 1, during which the school will announce the 2013 Distinguished Graduate, an award that recognizes an alumnus or alumna who has made a difference in the community as an outstanding public servant or leader.



CLARISSA V. DAVID

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial is joined by Diocese of Chalan Kanoa administrator Fr. Ryan P. Jimenez, Mount Carmel School president Galvin Deleon Guerrero, teachers, parents, and students during the proclamation signing for Catholic Schools Week at the diocese's Joeten Daidai Social Hall in Chalan Kanoa yesterday.

Store gets two years to address violation

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A hardware store in Susupe has been given two years to build a parking space for its customers or pay a fine to the Zoning Office.

Hong Ye Hardware was issued a notice of violation by the Zoning Office for failure to build ample parking space as required by the company's approved conditional use permit and the zoning law.

The store, located along Beach Road in Susupe and across the Bank of Saipan, was issued a conditional use permit in September 2010.

Owner Zheng Shao-Wei, through representative Gregorio Camacho, asked the board to consider waiving the \$2,250 fine for two years, which the company requested during a meeting and public hearing on Jan. 17.

In attendance at the meeting were board chair Diego Blanco, secretary Gus Kaipat, members Mable Ayuyu and Bruce Bateman, board counsel Teresa Sablan, Zoning Office staff, and office counsel Kate Fuller. Board vice chair Herman Sablan and treasurer Alice Igitol were both off-island.

Zoning administrator Therese T. Ogunoro said in an interview that the board asked Hong Ye Hardware to justify the two-year period they requested to address their violation.

Per Ogunoro, Camacho explained that the company cannot afford at the moment to have the front portion of its store knocked down to accommodate the required parking space.

"They said they're experiencing some financial hardships and they need to find a place where they can relocate the hardware supplies and materials to go through the process of constructing the parking space," she told *Saipan Tribune*.

According to Ogunoro, Camacho also informed the board that Hong Ye Hardware had an oversight of the conditions of their zoning permit and that they are having difficulties in organizing their personnel due to new immigration laws.

After hearing the testimonies, the board decided to grant the request for a two-year period, which began last Thursday. The board said this will allow Hong Ye Hardware to comply with the permit terms and conditions, undergo the permitting process in building the parking space and find a site where they can temporarily relocate the store's construction materials and hardware supplies.

Enforcement activities

Ogunoro disclosed that she was asked by board chair Blanco why the office took its time to act against the store or why it did not put a stop to the project early on to avoid penalties.

She replied that the Zoning Office had changed management on multiple occasions and that it was only last year that the staff began to aggressively inspect and enforce all conditional use permits.

"Hong Ye Hardware is one of the first establishments that we've inspected. We expect to continue our inspections in the coming days," she added.

Ogunoro noted that they are looking at inspecting about 35 businesses that have been issued conditional use permits in the last three years, plus a few more since the enactment of the Saipan Zoning Law in 2008.

Besides the conditional use permits, the Zoning Office also needs to conduct other enforcement activities on new structures, unpermitted structures and signs, other violations that have popped up overnight, as well as public complaints that they receive.

"Our enforcement actions are really dependent on our office's capability to have enough enforcement officers," Ogunoro emphasized.

She said the Zoning Office currently has only one enforcement officer assisted by the administrator and zoning planner and is now in the process of hiring another one.

Ogunoro said several individuals have expressed interest to apply for the position, and the Zoning Office will accept applications until 4:30pm today.

High surf, small craft advisories still in effect

Beauty pageant on the lookout for more candidates

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Registration is still ongoing for the United Filipino Organization's Ms. *Pusong Pinoy* beauty

pageant next month.

UFO president Annamabe Adaza said eight young women have signed up so far for the highlight of the group's signature Valentine show, now on its

second year.

"They will showcase their individual talent and compete in the gown competition, sportswear competition, and the question-and-answer portion where they will express their wit and show their composure," she said.

Pusong Pinoy is slated for Feb. 17 at the Garapan Fishing Base.

A maximum of 15 contestants will be allowed to join the pageant, and Adaza is urging other young hopefuls to register for the contest by calling or texting treasurer Evelyn Deazeta at 989-3845.

Next month's show will also feature *Panlasang Pinoy*, the culinary competition to be coordinated by chair Marlon Regaton of Alternatibong Kagalingan Angkop sa Pamayanang Pinoy, Inc. or AKAP Pinoy, which designed the mechanics of the event.

For a registration fee of \$25, interested professional cooks will be asked to prepare a set menu. The fee is waived for event vendors who want to join the contest.

Interested cooking contestants may call or text Regaton at 789-4600 to sign up or for more information.

A UFO affiliate, Triskelion group, plans to spearhead a health screening at the *Pusong Pinoy*. Those who want to avail of blood sugar screening are advised to refrain from any food or liquid intake 12 hours prior to testing.

Adaza said that vision screening services will be available once UFO receives confirmation from volunteer eye clinics.

The Valentine festivities will also feature other competitions such as a dance contest for groups with a minimum of eight members and a duet singing contest for males and females 15 to 25 years old.

Telecommunications company Docomo Pacific is *Pusong Pinoy's* major sponsor for the second straight year.

For inquiries, contact committee chair Olive Yana at 989-9823, Adaza at 483-5237, secretary Mario Mayuga at 285-1021, or assistant secretary Ana De Guzman at 989-2498.

The CNMI Emergency Management Office reiterated yesterday that its high surf advisory remains in effect until 6am Wednesday along north facing reefs.

Based on information EMO received from the National Weather Service in Tiyan, Guam, a north to northeast swell and wind waves generated by a shear line will continue to diminish but surf will remain hazardous on north facing shores. Surf on east facing reefs has already dropped below hazardous levels.

According to EMO, hazardous surf of 8 to 10 feet was expected along north facing shores last night before dropping below hazardous levels this morning.

A small craft advisory re-

mains in effect until 6am today, Jan. 23.

Winds are expected to fall below small craft advisory criteria by Wednesday morning. Similarly, combined seas are projected to gradually diminish, reaching 9 feet this morning.

Inexperienced mariners, especially those operating smaller vessels, should avoid still boating in these conditions. If travel by boat is necessary, exercise caution especially near reef lines and when entering or leaving harbors and inlets.

The public is urged to avoid venturing near exposed reefs and beaches, especially those along north and east facing reefs as rip currents are life threatening. **(EMO)**



CLARISSA V. DAVID

In this file photo, Ms. *Pusong Pinoy* 2012 Maria Angelica Malasarte, left, performs a song number while another contestant looks on during last year's Valentine event organized by the United Filipino Organization. This year's Hearts Day event is slated for Feb. 17 at the Garapan Fishing Base.

Energy event to be held on Rota

The Department of Public Works' Energy Division Office announced yesterday that the "2013 National Energy Action Campaign" will commence on Saturday, Jan. 26, 2013, with two sessions at the Rota Mayor's Office. This event is for those individuals who were not able to avail and participate in the last campaign activity held on July 27, 2012.

The Energy Division, through its Energy Education, Efficiency and Conservation efforts, will be distributing reusable shopping bags with Home Energy Savings Kits. Participants will also have the opportunity to obtain a portable stove by participating in the National Energy Action Campaign presentation.

Due to limited seating, in-

terested individuals must pre-register with the Energy Division by calling 664-4480/81 to confirm attendance and seating no later than 4:30pm today, Jan. 23, 2013. In addition, registered attendees will be required to present a copy of their most recent utility bill, in their name, to be allowed to participate in the schedule sessions.

The schedule of events is as follows:

- Saturday, Jan. 26, 2013
- First session: 9am to 11am
- Second session: 2pm to 4pm

Participants are required to be present an hour before the start of the event for registration purposes. For more information, contact the CNMI Energy Division office at 664-4480/81. **(Office of the Governor)**



(1) Landscaping Supervisor

Responsibilities include but are not limited to: Plans, schedule, assign and supervise the landscaping, seeding, weeding, cultivating, and general care of the hotel grounds. Plans and supervises cultivation, pruning, spraying and transplanting of a large variety of shrubs and trees. Plans and supervise operation of a greenhouse. Train and supervise crew of groundskeepers. Responsible for the maintenance of equipment used on the job site. Must have 3 years experience in horticulture or landscape architecture at supervisory level. Must have knowledge of how to protect trees and plants from diseases and insect infections. Strong customer service skills. Requires occasionally lifting of heavy objects and exposure to weather. Must be able to work a varied schedule including week-ends and holidays.

Interested applicants may send their applications to hr_@fiestasaipan.com; Applications forms may be obtained at our Security Office at the South Wing. To be considered applications must be submitted not later than January 28, 2013. Background checks and pre-employment drug testing will be required prior to employment.

Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan is an Equal Opportunity Employer
Qualified Women, Minorities, Veterans and Persons with Disabilities are urged to apply.

PACIFIC ISLANDS CLUB SAIPAN

is inviting qualified, U.S. workers to apply for the following positions:

(2) CARPENTER

Minimum five (5) years work experience as a cabinet maker; Must be able to work evenings/weekends/holidays

(3) PAINTER

Minimum of three (3) years related work experience; Must be able to work evenings/weekends/holidays

(1) POOL MAINTENANCE

Minimum two (2) years related work experience; Previous HAZMAT training preferred; Shift begins at 2:00 a.m. daily

(1) STOREROOM SUPERVISOR

Minimum three (3) years experience as a storekeeper in an Engineering environment. Responsible for storing, handling, ordering and obtaining the cost of all materials. Must be able to work evenings/weekends/holidays.

COMPLETE APPLICATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY 5:00PM on JANUARY 24, 2013.

PIC applications are available at the PIC Security Desk by the Loading Dock/Employee Entrance.

A copy of valid police clearance (less than 6 months old) must be attached to the application. Incomplete applications will NOT be accepted or considered.

Skills testing may be required for some positions.

PIC is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENTS



POSITION: HOUSEKEEPING

(5)

Qualification: Minimum of 3 years of experience and training in hotel & resort operation.

Must be able to work flexible hours and night shift.

Must be able to communicate clearly with managers & other personnel.

Self motivated, able to work under minimum supervision, trustworthiness and good working ethics. Courteous and prompt to respond to guest request and needs. Must be able to work for extended periods as per demand.

Duties and responsibilities: Responsible for creating and maintaining a clean and comfortable environment for hotel guests.

Replace used linens, sanitize bathrooms and set up the rooms according to hotels standards.

Carry linens, towels, toiletries and cleaning supplies using wheeled carts.

Empty waste baskets, empty and clean ashtrays and transport other trash and waste to disposal areas. Clean hallways, lobbies, lounges, restrooms, corridors stairways, locker rooms and other work area so that health standards are met.

Observe precautions required to protect hotel and guest property and report damage, theft and found articles to supervisors.

Replenish supplies such as drinking glasses, linens, writing supplies and bathroom items.

Clean rugs, carpets, upholstered furniture, and draperies, using vacuum cleaners and shampooers.

Dust and polish furniture and equipment.

Keep storage area and carts well-stocked, clean and tidy.

Disinfect equipment and supplies, using germicides or steam operated sterilizers.

POSITION: WAITER/WAITRESS

(8)

Qualification: Minimum of 2 years experience and training in hotel & resort operation.

Must be able to work flexible hours depending on reservation and function.

Good customer service, communication and interpersonal skills.

Listen to, understand information through spoken words and sentences.

Speak clearly so others can understand you.

Identify and understand the speech of another person.

Duties and responsibilities: Serve food & beverage to guest, provide courteous professional, efficient and flexible service in order to maximize guest satisfaction.

Present menus to patrons and answer questions about menu items, making recommendation upon request.

Take orders and serve food and beverages to patrons, and prepare or serve specialty dishes at tables as required.

Write patrons' food orders on order slips, memorize orders, or enter orders into computers for transmittal to kitchen staff.

Check with customers to ensure that they are enjoying their meals and take actions to correct any problems.

Prepare hot, cold and mixed drinks for patrons and chill bottles of wine.

Prepare checks that itemize and total meal costs and collect payment from customers.

Clean tables or counters after patrons have finished dining.

POSITION: CHIEF ACCOUNTANT

(1)

Qualification: Must have a bachelor degree in Accountancy. CPA a plus.

Minimum of 3 years experience as chief accountant.

Must be able to work flexible hours.

Duties and responsibilities: Report to CFO regarding finances of the company.

Prepare, examine or analyze financial information and prepare financial reports to assess accuracy, completeness, and conformance to reporting and procedural standards.

Develop, maintain and analyze budgets, preparing periodic reports that compare budgeted costs to actual costs.

Develop, implement, modify, and document recordkeeping and accounting system, making use of current computer technology.

Prepare report and schedule for audit.

Compute taxes owed and prepare tax returns, ensuring compliance with payment, reporting or other tax requirements.

Analyze business operations, trends, costs, revenues, financial commitments, and obligations to project future revenues and expenses or to provide advice.

POSITION: ACCOUNTANT

(1)

Qualification: Must have a bachelor degree in accounting

Minimum 5 years experience as accountant.

Must be able to work flexible hours.

Duties and responsibilities: Prepare bi-weekly and monthly payroll and maintain confidentiality and other related records.

Take charge of accounts payable and accounts receivable.

Maintain general ledger, accounting system, analyze accounts and prepare adjustment as needed.

Assists with fixed assets and inventory system and record-keeping.

Check daily deposit before depositing to the bank

Assist the chief accountant in the preparation of weekly, monthly and year end report.

POSITION: ASSISTANT CHEF WESTERN CUISINE

(1)

Qualification: Minimum 5 years experience and training.

Knowledge of standards of food preparation, serves and observe kitchen procedures.

Reliable, responsible and dependable in fulfilling obligations.

Must be able to work flexible hours depending on reservation and function.

Duties and responsibilities: Check the quality of raw or cooked food products to ensure that standards are met.

Supervise or coordinate activities of cooks or workers engaged in food preparation to ensure timely delivery of patrons order.

Order or requisition food or other supplies needed to ensure efficient operation.

Instruct cooks or other workers to check the quality and quantity of received products and in preparation, cooking, garnishing or presentation of food.

Determine how food should be presented and create decorative food displays.

Inspect supplies, equipment and food preparation areas to ensure conformance to safe and sanitary food-handling practices and established company standards.

POSITION: SUPERVISOR, LANDSCAPE

(1)

Qualification: Must have 7 years of experience and training in the field of Golf Course Industry.

Must be reliable, responsible and dependable in fulfilling obligations.

Must be able to work flexible hours.

Duties and responsibilities: Directly supervise and coordinate activities of workers engaged in landscaping, cultivating lawns, pruning trees and shrubs or grounds keeping activities.

Establish and enforce operating procedures and work standards that will ensure adequate performance and personnel safety.

Train workers in tasks such as transplanting or pruning trees or shrubs, finishing cement, using equipment or caring for turf.

Monitors project activities to ensure that instructions are followed, deadlines are met and schedules are maintained.

Schedules work for crews, depending on work priorities, crew or equipment availability, or weather condition.

Inventory supplies of tools, equipment or materials to ensure that sufficient supplies are available and items are in usable condition.

Confer with other supervisors to coordinate work activities with those of other departments.

POSITION: MACHINIST

(1)

Qualification: Must have 5 years of experience and training.

Must have overall knowledge of machines and tools, including their designs, uses, repair, and maintenance.

Knowledge of mechanics, mathematics, metal properties, layout and machining procedures.

Duties and responsibilities: Set up and operate a variety of machine tools to produce precision parts and instruments.

Fabricate, modify or repair mechanical instruments or parts to make or repair machine tools or maintain industrial machines.

Calculate dimensions or tolerance, using instruments such as micrometers or vernier calipers.

Machine parts to specifications, using machine tools, such as lathes, milling machines, shapers or grinders.

Set up, adjust or operate basic or specialized machine tools used to perform precision machining operations.

Align and secure holding fixtures, cutting tools, attachments, accessories, or materials onto machines.

Monitor the feed and speed of machines during the machining process.

Maintain machine tools in proper operational condition.

Drop off your resume and application at the LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort at the Front Office, Kagman Road
May submit resume online at: tmatsunaga@laolabay.com

Deadline to submit application: February 15, 2013, on or before 5:00pm
Saipan LauLau Development Inc. dba LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort is an Equal Opportunity Employer and Provider.

Bank offers \$10K in college scholarships

» 5 awardees to receive \$2,000 each plus paid summer internship

Bank of Guam announced yesterday that applications are now available for its IFIT Scholarship, which makes \$2,000 available for five graduating seniors to attend a U.S. accredited four-year college or university. The scholarship also includes a paid summer internship at the bank's branches.

To be eligible for the program, applicants must:

■ Be U.S. citizens who reside in Guam, the CNMI, Palau, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, or San Francisco, California;

■ Be high school seniors, Class of 2013, (copies of transcripts and SAR/ACT scores required) from an accredited high school with a 3.5 grade point average.

■ Submit the original, numbered application by March 15, 2013 to Bank of Guam, ATTN: Marketing Department;

■ Submit three letters of recommendation, one from a referee of choice; and

■ Submit answers to four essay questions.

The scholarship will be available for use at any four-year U.S. accredited college or university, and would be earmarked to those students

pursuing degrees in business, finance, accounting, economics or related majors (can be multi-disciplinary). Ten semi-finalists will be selected by April and will then be required to submit additional documents, including an acceptance letter to a U.S. accredited four-year college or university.

Lou A. Leon Guerrero, Bank of Guam Board chair, president and chief executive officer, said, "We are very proud to offer graduating high school seniors an opportunity to continue their education at an accredited college or university. Given Bank of Guam's longstanding service and commitment

to higher education for its communities, it is a privilege to continue this commitment."

Last year's Awardees were graduates of Guam's Notre Dame High School, Academy of Our Lady of Guam and Southern High. Additionally, graduates from Saipan's Kagman High and Pohnpei's Seventh Day Academy won the scholarships and paid internships.

Applications are available at all Bank of Guam branches and the Customer Service Department in Hagatna Branch lobby. They have also been distributed to Guam's high schools. Only originals will be accepted. *(Bank of Guam)*

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Jan. 23, 2001

Project WET workshop for grade school teachers

In continuing efforts to promote the awareness, appreciation, and knowledge on the islands' limited water resources, the Community Utilities Corporation sponsored Friday a Project WET workshop. Friday's Project WET, which stands for Water Education for Teachers, was one with the most attended sessions. It was a day for the Professional Development of Elementary Educators organized by the Public School System. Established in 1997 at the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation, Project WET has developed into a national and international program that includes the CNMI, American Samoa, Majuro, and Palau with other insular areas to follow.

PSS refines vocational program

Citing the need to address the growing labor market, the Public School System yesterday revised its Vocational Education Clustered Program to redefine the needs of the Commonwealth labor force. Late last year, Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio signed into law House Bill 12-285 which extends the privilege of nonresident workers with special skills and qualifications to occupy hard-to-fill vacant positions within the CNMI government. The law aims to alleviate the critical situation currently facing the Commonwealth Health Center as well as other departments and agencies which rely on nonresident workers for certain hard-to-fill positions.

Jan. 23, 2002

Garment industry's competitiveness waning

Saipan's apparel industry spokesperson Richard A. Pierce recently asked the CNMI's new administration leaders to be cognizant of their industry's declining ability to compete in the world's apparel marketplace. Pierce, who is also currently president of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, asked for the government's assistance in allowing foreign-owned companies here to continue to provide much needed revenue and jobs. In messages delivered during the inauguration events, and at the Saipan Chamber of Commerce installation ceremonies, Pierce asked CNMI Gov. Juan N. Babauta and House Speaker Heinz Hofschneider to consider economic relief for the Saipan factories that are finding it harder to compete for orders from customers in the United States.

Reyes takes DPW to task over road repairs

Acting Public Works Secretary Juan S. Reyes yesterday said his department has the capability to assume responsibility over repairs of secondary roads. Reyes said the department can handle the responsibility for both primary and secondary roads if given the necessary resources. "I think [the Department of] Public Works is capable of providing all those services once we are given the right equipment and the right manpower," Reyes said. "I can do that, and I promise that I will do it." The new public works chief was reacting to reports quoting House Rep. William S. Torres as saying that the responsibility over secondary roads should be left with the office of the mayor.

Jan. 23, 2004

CUC medical benefits 'significantly low'

A survey has shown that the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s medical benefits to employees are "significantly below" the market. Fox Lawson and Associates, which CUC hired to assess and compare CUC's pay scale with other utility firms in the region and the U.S. mainland, said in its report that CUC employees are currently paying 76 percent of their medical benefits, while employees in the market are responsible for only 27 percent. "One element of the CUC's total compensation package that is significantly below the market is CUC's contribution to medical benefits," said FLA. Yet, the same report said that CUC's lack of medical contribution "may be overshadowed by its generous retirement contribution."

CPA renews commitment to Chinese tourists

The Commonwealth Ports Authority has stepped up efforts to lure more Chinese tourists to the Northern Marianas by beefing up negotiations with another airline company that would serve the market. CPA executive director Carlos H. Salas said negotiation is ongoing with another airline company in hopes to freely expand the China market by providing more direct flights between Tinian and the People's Republic of China. Salas disclosed that negotiations have been ongoing between ports authority officials, who earlier expressed interests in flying direct between Tinian and PROC.



CIP coordinator Virginia Villagomez, second from left, leads other CIP staffers Nerrisa Benavente and Carl Castro in turning over some \$20,000 worth of equipment and tools to officers of the Department of Corrections. Funding was made possible through a grant from the Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs.

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

CIP Office turns over new equipment

The Office of the Governor's Capital Improvement Program Office, led by CIP coordinator Virginia Villagomez, recently turned over some \$20,000 worth of equipment and tools to the Department of Corrections to use for its Community Service Program. The equipment was funded through a grant applied for by the CNMI and awarded by the Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs.

"The Community Service Program will facilitate the main-

tenance of public areas using personnel with court imposed obligations," said Villagomez. "Under this structure, OIA funds will provide a much needed maintenance program at minimal cost. Essentially, the program will obtain approximately \$105,000 in free labor from this \$20,000 grant funds we requested."

The Fitial administration lauded the work of the CIP Office in successfully securing this grant and the Department

of Corrections, which will have custodial authority and use of the equipment and tools as part of the Community Service Program throughout public areas.

"The maintenance of public facilities and parks will greatly improve the appearance and cleanliness of the public areas," said Gov. Benigno R. Fitial. "Moreover, through the Community Service Program, our residents and visitors can expect a cleaner and more en-

hanced environment."

Under this approved grant submission, the funds received from OIA were used to procure two riding mowers, four push lawn mowers, 10 bush cutters, two blowers, two Worx blower/vac/mulcher, 16 lawn rakes, 16 shovels, and 11 refills of line trimmers. The Community Service Program will service public areas such as the Beach Road pathway, Marpi Public Cemetery, Emergency Operation Center, and other public parks and facilities. *(Office of the Governor)*

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Open auditions for musical revue

Producers of a new musical revue called *Island Life* will be holding a second open audition this Thursday, Jan. 24, and Monday, Jan. 28, from 5pm to 7pm on each day. Auditions will be held at the NMPASI Offices, which is next to the Commonwealth Cancer Association office, just north of the Gualo Rai intersection. *Island Life* is expected to have its first performance in April. The tentative rehearsal schedule is three evenings per week, 7pm to 10pm, most likely in a San Vicente Elementary School classroom. *(PR)*

Air Force training on Farallon de Medinilla

The U.S. Air Force is conducting training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla until Jan. 25, from 8:30am to 4pm. The public, especially fishermen, commercial pilots and marine tour operators, are advised to stay clear from the area during the times and dates indicated. *(PR)*

ARC sets health, safety trainings

The American Red Cross is scheduled to conduct Preparedness Health & Safety trainings on the following dates:

■ Jan. 23 at 6pm - Adult CPR/AED

■ Jan. 26 at 8am - Adult CPR/AED

■ Jan. 30 at 6pm - Infant & Child CPR/AED

■ Jan. 31 at 6pm - Adult CPR/AED Blended Learning

Classes are held at the chapter training room on Airport Road. Course fees apply. For more information on the courses listed or other certification courses, contact the chapter office at 234-3459. *(PR)*

Search on for 'Couple Married Longest'

The CNMI Chapter of the Worldwide Marriage Encounter Community is joining other Marriage Encounter groups around

the United States in searching for the "Couple Married Longest in the CNMI." The Couple Married Longest search is being conducted in preparation for honoring World Marriage Day on Sunday, Feb. 10, 2013. If you have been married for over 50 years, or if you know of friends or relatives who have been, and both spouses are still living, email their names, phone numbers and wedding date to cnmiwmd@yahoo.com. The deadline for all entries is Jan. 31, 2013. The winning couple will be honored with a WWME World Marriage Day Certificate at one of the selected World Marriage Day Masses. *(PR)*

Island Snapshots



NEW OFFICERS

Bayani Association president Olive Yana, center, poses with other officers, members, and supporters of the group during the induction ceremony held on Jan. 12 at the Chalan Kanoa Beach Hotel.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



CABINET MEETING

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, seated left, and Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos confer with other government officials after a Cabinet meeting on a Martin Luther King Jr. Day holiday yesterday, lasting more than three hours solely on the issue of reinvigorating tourism. The governor formed a special team that aims to prioritize the safety and welfare of tourists at a time when visitor arrivals are picking up.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO



SITE VISIT

Board of Education members and Public School System officials gather for a group photo with visiting Office of Head Start Region XI official Richard Ybarra, who is conducting an annual site visit of the program.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



MAIDEN FLIGHT

Arctic Circle Air Services, Inc. general manager Amjad M. Fahrour, passenger service agents Bhing Cuadra and Sheila Sambile prepare to board the passengers for the company's inaugural flight to Rota on Monday morning at the Saipan commuter terminal. Rota Resort & Country Club has chartered on-demand flights in an effort to address transportation woes between Saipan and Rota.

CLARISSA V. DAVID



Pilot Roland R. Mamuad, right, and general manager Amjad M. Fahrour of Arctic Circle Air Services, Inc. secure the nine-seater Britten-Norman aircraft after it touched down at Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport on Rota on Jan. 21, Martin Luther King Jr. Day. The two were aboard the airline company's maiden passenger flight, which comes about three months after Arctic Circle Air began its operations offering cargo services.

CLARISSA V. DAVID



Passengers of Arctic Circle Air's inaugural flight between Saipan and Rota smile for the camera after arriving at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport on Monday. From left to right, Commonwealth Development Authority board director Tom Glenn Quitugua, Arctic Circle Air general manager Amjad M. Fahrour, pilot Roland R. Mamuad, JMSH, LLC vice president Jae Hong, and KSPN reporter Meghan Bragg.

CLARISSA V. DAVID



JEOPARDY GAME

Dr. Rita H. Inos Junior Senior High School juniors and seniors engage in the financial aid jeopardy game hosted by student ambassador Tim Deleon Guerrero at NMC's recent Start Smart Seminar held at the Rota Resort. The activity aimed to teach high school seniors about financial aid options for college.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



COLLEGE ADVICE

Sen. Jovita Taimano delivers her inspirational remarks and college advice to Dr. Rita H. Inos Junior and Senior High School juniors and seniors at the recent Start Smart Seminar hosted by NMC.

NMC

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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Los Angeles Times

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Obama, Version 2.0

Four years ago, on a bright, cold Jan. 20, Barack Obama took his first oath of office as president and proclaimed a new post-partisan era. "The stale political arguments that have consumed us for so long no longer apply," the Obama of 2009 said.

The second four years of a two-term president's tenure are always different from the first, but it's hard to overstate how different Obama's second term feels, even before his inauguration. He has most of the same goals and many of the same aides, but in strategy and style, the change is dramatic.

Obama learned at least three important lessons from his difficult first term, and they have reshaped his approach to the office.

Lesson one: Confrontation sometimes works better than conciliation.

At the start of his presidency, Obama hoped to be a bridge builder. But over the last two months, he's been more of a bridge burner.

He's told Republicans in Congress that he flatly refuses to negotiate over the debt ceiling, and warned that if a showdown over the issue damages the economy, it will be on their heads.

He's dared them, as well, to shut down the federal government. "That's their prerogative," he said last week.

He's excoriated House conservatives in unfair, exaggerated terms as opponents of Social Security and Medicare. He's advocated new gun control legislation that he knew Republicans would oppose. And he's ignored GOP opposition to his nominees for secretary of Defense and Treasury.

The new, combative strategy is in part the product of a theory Obama and his aides have enunciated several times: that to get anything done in Washington this year, they first need to (in their words) "break the fever" in the GOP and convince Republicans that refusal to compromise will lead them to political ruin.

"We've got to break the habit of negotiating through crisis over and over again," Obama said last week. "And now's as good a time as any."

Lesson two: Obama's a great campaigner but not always a great negotiator, so use him as Mr. Outside, not Mr. Inside.

The polite version of this lesson is that, from now on, the president will spend more time enlisting ordinary voters in his battles—over the debt ceiling, gun control and everything else.

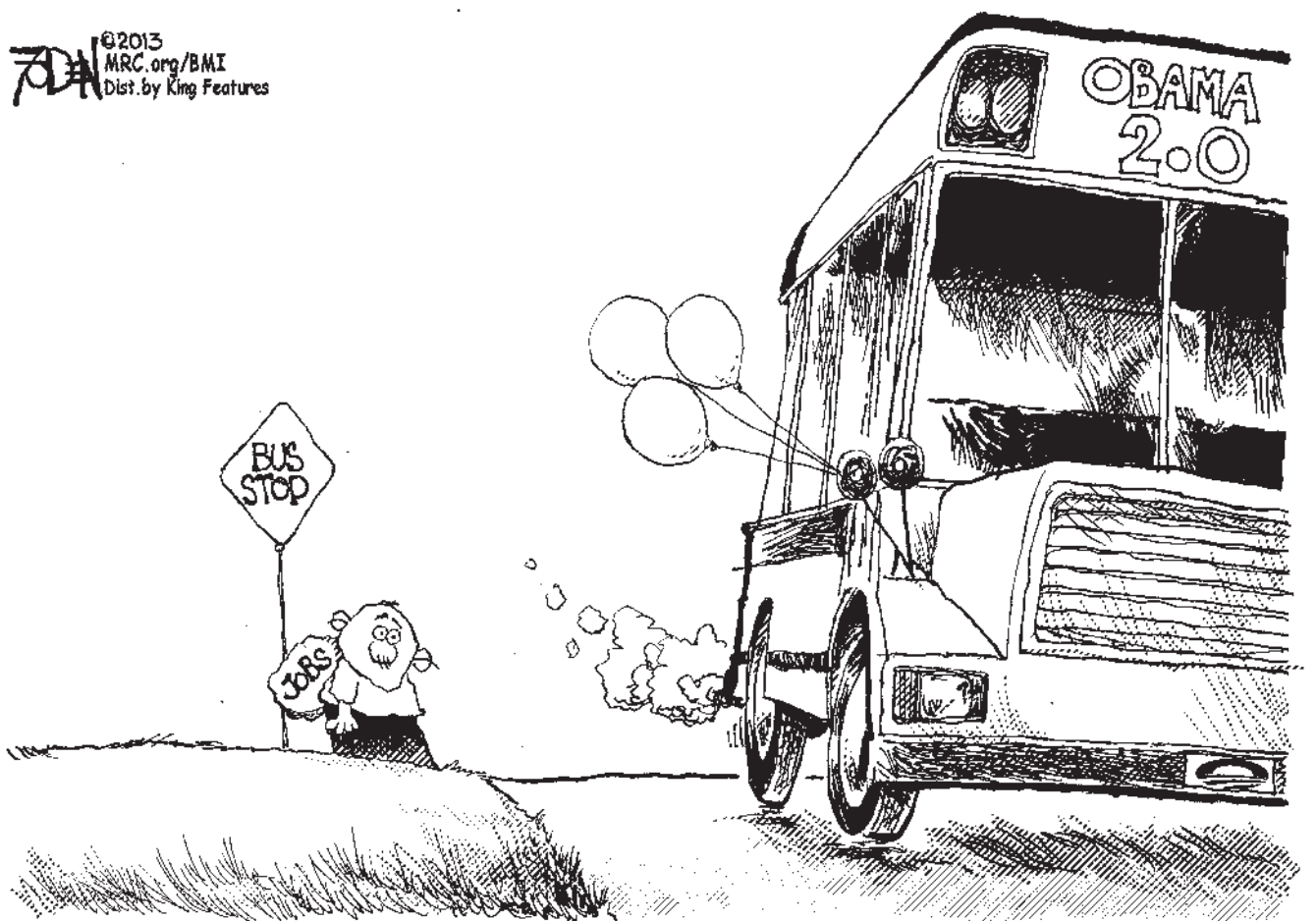
"You need to involve the American people in the discussion," his chief campaign strategist, David Axelrod, said last year. "It can't just be an inside game."

But it's also a reflection of an unwelcome discovery. When Obama tried to negotiate a grand bargain with House Speaker John A. Boehner, R-Ohio, in 2011, not only did the talks collapse, the failure dropped the president's popularity to the lowest point of his tenure.

From now on, negotiations with Republicans in Congress are more likely to be handled by Vice President Joe Biden—Mr. Inside, if you will—while Obama rallies public pressure on the outside.

That's why last week's announcement that Obama is turning his presidential campaign into a permanent network called

See OBAMA on next page

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Obama's foreign policy juggling act

As President Obama embarks on his second term, his foreign-policy strategy remains murky.

Clearly, the president wants, and needs, to focus heavily on domestic problems. In his own words: "As we turn the page on a decade of war, it's time to do some nation-building here at home." Granted.

Yet—as events in Mali and Algeria showed last week—the world will not hibernate while America puts its own house in order. If allies and enemies believe Obama's top priority is to disengage from much of the world, the consequences for U.S. security interests will be dire.

Those disturbing consequences are already painfully evident in Afghanistan and in the Middle East.

In Afghanistan, the administration has understandably scaled down its objectives as Americans tire of the country's longest war. The current goal is to leave a country stable enough to prevent the return of al-Qaida or affiliates who want to attack the West.

U.S. officials have trained more than 350,000 Afghan security forces—about half of them police—who are supposed to keep their country stable after U.S. troops exit by the end of 2014. U.S. officials are negotiating with the Afghan government about whether to leave a small U.S. force after 2014 (the U.S. military reportedly wants 10,000 to 20,000; the White House is considering 3,000 to 6,000). The purpose would be to provide support in areas such as logistics, intelligence, counterterrorism, and air support.

Anyone who follows Afghanistan knows its security forces aren't capable of keeping the peace alone, especially since the Taliban is still potent. A Pentagon report in December said that only one of 23 Afghan brigades was able to operate independently. (Keep in mind the recent collapse, or defection, of the U.S.-trained Malian armed forces in the face of a militant attack.)

Yet the administration has given conflicting signals about whether it wants to keep any follow-on force to give Afghan troops back-up and backbone. A senior White House official recently floated a "zero option"—meaning no U.S. troops after 2014. Other officials have indicated that small numbers of U.S. special forces would be sufficient to keep out any resurgent al-Qaida—although it is hard to see how special forces could operate if Afghanistan implodes.

And collapse, or renewed civil war, is what many observers expect if all U.S. troops—or all but a very few—leave next year. Indeed, in the absence of clarity about U.S. intent, Afghan factions are hedging their bets, and rearming.

Even Pakistan—a country that has permitted the Taliban safe haven—has made clear it is frightened of a premature and total U.S. exit. Well it should be. If the Taliban retakes control of much of Afghanistan, it would become a base from which Pakistani extremists would try to take control of their nuclear-armed state.

"When people think the United States is walking away from everything, it really has an impact," says former U.S. Ambassador to Afghanistan Ronald Neumann. Into the vacuum that is

By TRUDY RUBIN

The Philadelphia Inquirer

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created, bad forces flow.

Similarly, the administration's disengagement from the Middle East has also had negative consequences. Even where leading from behind was effective—in Libya—the administration failed to follow up, though it was clear the regime's collapse meant pilfered arms would flow freely across the region.

But the most ugly example is Syria, where the administration has been reluctant to lead at all.

U.S. officials hesitated for months over whether to identify and possibly arm moderate Syrian rebels. In the meantime, money and weapons poured in from the Arab gulf to a minority of Islamists and jihadis who seized leadership of the rebellion.

Finally, in November, U.S. officials helped organize a new, broad-based civilian Syrian Opposition Council (SOC). Washington also encouraged the Saudis—yes, the Saudis, who support militant Islamists around the globe—to try to organize Syrian rebel leaders into a coherent fighting force. So far the effort has failed, with moderate commanders shorted of guns and money.

Meantime, the civilian SOC is floundering, because promised funds have not arrived. (U.S. leadership, anybody?) Message: Without strong and consistent U.S. pressure and backing, no moderate Syrian rebel leadership will emerge.

But ambivalence at the top makes such support unlikely. The region recognizes that the White House really doesn't want to get involved in the Syrian struggle, no matter who fills the vacuum.

U.S. officials, however, are busy planning for what to do after the fall of Bashar al-Assad. Never mind that their influence will be minimal, because hard-line Islamists will have won.

White House ambivalence on Afghanistan and avoidance on Syria are widely noticed in other regions. The perception is of an administration that wants disengagement above all, but won't admit the likely consequences—even to itself.

No doubt Iran notices. And China. And al-Qaida's franchise operations in many places.

The issue is not whether the United States should heedlessly engage in more wars (it shouldn't) or engage more at home (it should), but whether it is disengaging too fast from regions where its leadership is still needed. Whether Obama can—or is willing to—juggle engagement both at home and abroad will define the legacy of his second term.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Emergency: Strictly equipment rental

The emergency award on the landfill pertains strictly to equipment rental. This was necessitated by the abandonment of operations by the previous operator. The selected firm, Success International, was the only firm with the appropriate equipment thus the award on a month-to-month basis, the selection premised on laws and regulations by highly responsible local agencies.

The landfill is federally funded and so there are federal laws and that must be followed by those assigned to review recently submitted proposals. It is the tentacles of corruption that must be discouraged from dictating who is awarded. Thus the need for all pertinent federal and local agencies, including the FBI and OPA to partake in how the next landfill award is granted. Selection must revolve around the merits, pertinent federal and procurement laws, no more, no less.

It's time for the local government to institute protecting the process of selection and contractual agreements on this and other projects based on, if I may reiterate, merits by following federal and local laws to the letter. The man upstairs must steer clear of attempting to force a decision in favor of his "cherry picked" firm who are politically close with him. It's time, sir, to rebuild a government of laws and permanently trash any further betrayal of trust.

The inclusion of the following information should have erased the insinuation of impropriety. The following should clear the air. Here are the facts:

1 It's an "emergency" to ensure that the daily work at the Marpi landfill isn't disrupted to the detriment of the NMI after the job was abandoned by another company.

2 Logically, the term "emergency" is just that—an urgent decision—that needed quick solutions. Therefore, it's illogically moronic to even think there's room to issue an RFP.

3 Procurement's earlier decision relates to solicitation of quotation but subsequently rescinded. This was premised on DPW's assertion that the job can't be disrupted and granted on a month-to-month basis. It also issued an announcement for an RFP for a permanent arrangement. Any protest would be useless in that the work done is within scope.

4 Thus, "the department recognizes the need to extend the existing contract with our service provider with Success International...until such that the RFP is completed." It also said "the

current equipment rental provider has demonstrated satisfactory performance and has extended assistance to the department beyond their duties to assist in the maintenance of the facilities".

5 DPW clearly explained that an RFP would be forthcoming soliciting bid proposals from all interested parties on the new arrangement where proposers' submission are reviewed in line with laws governing procurement.

6 The firm given to continue the landfill is the only one at the time with appropriate equipment thus the granting of the emergency contract.

Recalibrating vision

Leadership has donned the usual *mañana* as it rests pensive and disoriented how to deal with the dire need for re-investment to shore up on cataclysmic economic conditions. Some are convinced we can secure prosperity by taxing private industry to death. They are oblivious that the exact opposite effect in punitive policies would reverberate as the balance of investors lift their luggage thinking with their feet to relocate elsewhere.

The NMI has a lot of flaws in its tax system, stifled by its shortsightedness on reviving investment ignorant of what lures investors, corruption in most government agencies, but finite in its pushing the envelop to saddle businesses with more than their share of fees and taxes. Isn't it true that private industry is also railing against the high cost of utilities here? Isn't it true that if it can't turn in at least some appreciable marginal profits that they'd start thinking with their feet?

The people of Tinian and Rota have suffered heavily from piles of fees and taxes levied against basic commodities. Did this administration lift a finger to alleviate the hardship so inflicted against families paying more than their share of fees and taxes? How much longer can this political power drunkenness push hardship against the innocent? Doesn't this administration have any sense of humility to lift our brothers and sisters from extreme subterranean misery?

This wonderful *mañana* syndrome must change this year. We can't continue bowing to leadership failure from a narcissist entrapped in self-delusion of deformed self-righteousness convinced he's telling the truth braving cavalierly pseudology as though we're all servile and ignorant slaves. We know what's right sir and appalling how you've swerved from following what you've asked of your cabinet people.

by Rota people and it's not high but moderate enough. I will be the first one who will oppose any attempt for tax reduction, if any one tries it. I will regard it as a betrayal of the Rota people.

Why does Sen. Hocog, along with Rep. Santos, say as if anyone is attempting to have the tax reduced? No one here now is talking about or looking at tax reduction except for Rep. Santos and Sen. Hocog.

And I do not like the word "flexibility" or "amicable" tax rate for casino investors. The gaming tax rate is 10 percent. If any investor does not like it, he or she can choose not to invest on Rota. That's all.

He said, "In short, the 10 percent gaming tax will be deducted only from the gaming revenues. The other revenues related to casino operations will not be taxed." I don't understand what he is saying here. The other revenues related to casino operations will not be taxed? Where did he get the idea?

There are 100 different types of taxes related to casino operation. Any of these taxes should not be changed. They got to be levied as "where is as is" in Casino Act and Rules and Regulations.

What I said is that the definition of gross revenue in Casino Acts is not standardized language, nor casino industry norm. I asked it to be amended—actually to be corrected. That's why I mentioned one time that every language is not perfect.

A few days ago when I announced our plan for Arctic Circle in a press conference—a new airline servicing passengers between Saipan and Rota now, and in the near future between Guam and Rota, and Guam and Tinian—it was more than welcomed by the Rota people. They've been getting isolated as they are losing transportation.

faced an economic crisis that demanded action. Following the advice of his chief of staff, Rahm Emanuel—that a crisis shouldn't be wasted—the new president aimed high with an agenda that included not only a \$787-billion economic stimulus package but also healthcare and financial reform, and new legislation on immigration, education and climate change.

The last part of that to-do list stalled after Republicans won a majority in the House and vowed not merely to block any new Obama initiatives but to reverse what had already been passed.

This time, the president has trimmed his expectations.

"I don't presume that because I won an election, that everybody suddenly agrees with me on everything," he said in November. "I'm more than familiar with all the literature about presidential over-

By **JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.**
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of Department of Public Lands.



As change creeps in

The powerful social fabric known as "communal sharing"—a fiber that has held us together for centuries—would eventually fade into history as influence on education, television, social media, etc. shifts value systems over the long haul.

Dwelling on its eventual fade into history, I took a long drive revisiting places that were once forestland some 40 years ago. It was once thick jungle easily devoured by ghostly darkness and dead silence when the sun sets out west.

But there was the word "beauty" that best describes the pearl of the Pacific, a term that is easily swamped and threatened by other less harmonious adjectives when viewed against the struggles of our people to hold unto their version of a place they call home or paradise. Change will definitely shift the old black and white picture as it fades on the paper it was printed on.

A perfect view of change is the shift in Kagman, a forestland now urbanized into the largest residential area. It used to be solely the purview of local hunters treading the woodlands for coconut crabs, deer, wild chicken and boar. It is now replaced by neatly clipped residential area with schools, church and a hotel/golf resort. It reminds me of further shifts ahead that include the eventual disappearance of communal sharing.

Even on family parties, there's the usual silence as each opens up iphones, ipods, where the only temporary disruption is when we devour what's in the family pot. If anything, nothing will ever be the same and it doesn't mean its bad for our people. It's a matter of being mindful of our humble beginnings as we embrace the demands of modernity.

Our investment in Arctic Circle is obviously good news to every people on Rota. After the press conference, our office received about 50 calls from Rota residents with thanking comments. Many press and local leaders were present at the press conference, only because it's all about suffering Rota people and they took it as one of the solutions.

I asked Rep. Santos to join the press conference but was again rejected. Her reason was the invitation had to be written, formal, and official. Sen. Hocog promised to join the press conference but didn't show up.

Now they are talking about public hearing. How many hearings have we had for the last one year? Have they ever expressed any interest in public opinion? Have they ever shown up at a hearing before?

If it is their own, it's good to go. And if it's someone else's, it's bad, so ignore it?

Please stop playing games!
Please stop distorting facts!
Please stop misleading people!
Please stop politics!

While you are playing politics, the Rota people, your innocent people, are withering.

Jae Hong

*Vice president, JMSH LLC
Rota Resort & Country Club*

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Stop playing games!

Newly elected Sen. Hocog stated, "Bring casino issue back to people," on the Jan. 21, 2013, edition of *Marianas Variety*. His words about the casino issue makes me really tired. There's no casino issue. If there is any, only politicians' issue or leaders' issue is out there.

I welcome his remark that "I am fully supporting 100 percent the investors to come in to revive the economy." He likes to see the casino industry brought to Rota, so that the Rota economy will get boosted for people's better lives and prosperity. This is exactly why I said the issue is not casino issue, but politicians' or leaders' issue.

Leaders such as Sen. Hocog who welcome this new casino industry still do not understand and are confused with the awaiting casino bill. I don't know if he even understands what he said in the above referenced news article.

He said, "When you do it in the dark, it is not going to be clear. If there is lack of light, there is lack of transparency." Let me say no one played in the dark but Rep. Santos. And it looks like she wants to be in the dark by choice.

I am repeating myself one more time. I do not support the reduction of the current tax rate. Ten percent of gaming tax is ordered

OBAMA

From Page 10

Organizing for Action was important. The new group could give the president a mechanism for mobilizing supporters behind his priorities during the second term. A similar attempt didn't work in the first term, largely because the major legislation Obama sought then—an economic stimulus bill, a healthcare law and Wall Street reform—had to be negotiated through the "inside game" among interest groups.

Lesson three: Don't get over-ambitious.

In 2009, Obama began his first term with a huge electoral mandate and Democratic majorities in both houses of Congress. He also

reach in second terms." He has said he will pursue deficit reduction, tax reform, infrastructure spending, immigration reform and gun control. But it's not yet clear how much new legislation he can get through the GOP-held House.

Listen closely to Obama's inaugural address. He'll speak about soaring hopes and national unity, as he did four years ago; it's still an inaugural address, after all.






But this time there will be some steely notes as well, reminders to his opponents that he won the presidential election and that the voters were sending Washington a message.

The Obama who takes his second oath of office on Sunday is the same man he was four years ago, but he's a very different politician.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

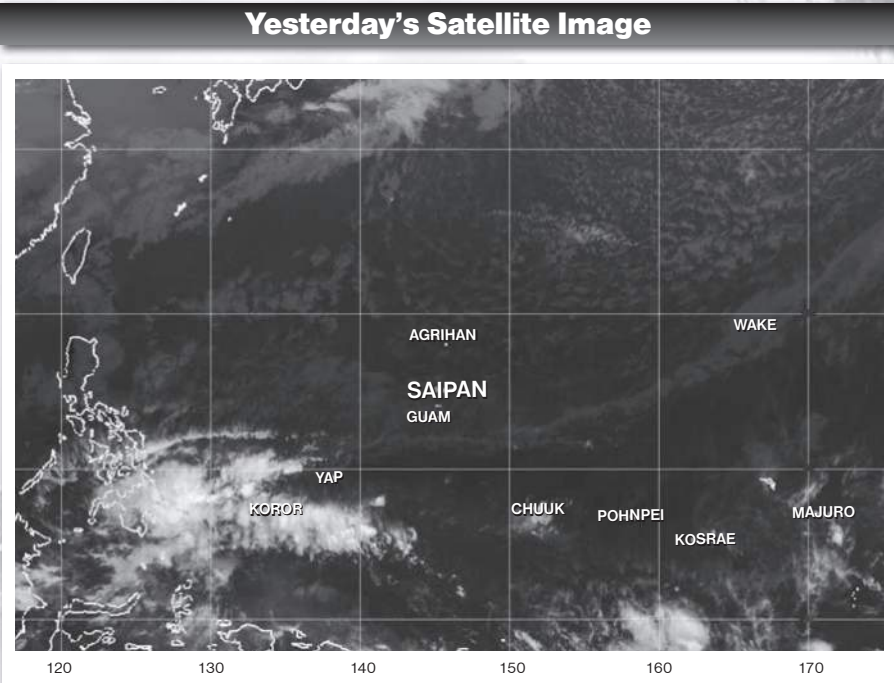
5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
				
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲ 86° ▼ 76°	▲ 86° ▼ 76°	▲ 86° ▼ 76°	▲ 86° ▼ 76°	▲ 86° ▼ 76°

Micronesia		
Guam and Rota	Mostly Sunny	▲ 83 ▼ 76
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲ 85 ▼ 77
Yap	Showers	▲ 88 ▼ 78
Chuuk	Showers	▲ 85 ▼ 79
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	▲ 85 ▼ 80
Kosrae	Partly Cloudy	▲ 85 ▼ 80
Majuro	Showers	▲ 86 ▼ 80

Around The Globe		
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲ 76 ▼ 66
Beijing	Sunny	▲ 35 ▼ 17
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	▲ 69 ▼ 59
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲ 81 ▼ 69
London	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 34 ▼ 17
Los Angeles	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 78 ▼ 55
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲ 85 ▼ 74
Melbourne	Sunny	▲ 94 ▼ 56
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲ 75 ▼ 58
New York	Partly Cloudy	▲ 24 ▼ 17
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲ 52 ▼ 38
Paris	Snow	▲ 27 ▼ 11
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	▲ 49 ▼ 25
Rome	Showers	▲ 49 ▼ 34
Salem	Rain	▲ 46 ▼ 37
San Francisco	Showers	▲ 60 ▼ 49
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲ 36 ▼ 12
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	▲ 51 ▼ 37
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	▲ 27 ▼ 23

Tides			
Saipan Harbor			
6:37 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.6 Feet
11:19 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.2 Feet
4:23 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, JANUARY 22, 2013
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front extends southwestward from 25N179E to 20N170E then continues as a shear line to end west of Yap at 9N133E. Cloudiness and scattered showers are found along and up to 300 miles northwest of this boundary. This area includes the Marianas and Wake Island. A near-equatorial trough runs eastward from 4N130E to 5N136E then southeastward to end near EQ144E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms across Palau are within 125 miles of a line from 7N130E to 5N142E and southwest of a line from 5N132E to EQ133E. A surface trough is near Chuuk with scattered showers within 50 miles of a line from 7N150E to 7N154E. A weak trade-wind disturbance over the Marshall Islands is causing scattered showers within 75 miles of a line from 8N169E to 5N172E and between 4N and 8N from 175E to 178E.

Sunrise/Sunset			Moonrise/Moonset		
Today	6:47 AM	6:11 PM	Today	2:56 PM	3:20 AM
Thursday	6:47 AM	6:11 PM	Thursday	3:45 PM	4:08 AM
Friday	6:47 AM	6:12 PM	Friday	4:35 PM	4:56 AM
Saturday	6:47 AM	6:12 PM	Saturday	5:26 PM	5:41 AM
Sunday	6:47 AM	6:13 PM	Sunday	6:17 PM	6:25 AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

■ **CAMPUS BULLETIN**
Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number.

- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan

To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JAN. 7, 2013									
DEPARTURES					ARRIVALS				
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)					GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN				
UA5070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 4, 6, 7		UA 5069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 4, 6, 7	
UA5062	4:40am	5:30am	1, 3, 5		UA5071	7:05am	7:55am	Daily	
UA5068	8:25am	9:15am	Daily		UA5073	9:50am	10:40am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7	
UA5074	11:10am	12:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7		UA5075	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7	
UA5076	3:10pm	4:00pm	Daily		UA5077	5:35pm	6:25pm	Daily	
UA5078	6:55pm	7:45pm	Daily		UA5079	8:20pm	9:10pm	Daily	
UA5072	9:45pm	10:35pm	Daily						
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)					NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN				
DL287	6:00am	8:40am	Daily		DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily	
DL285	6:35am	9:15am	1, 3, 5, 7		DL286	7:40pm	12:15am+1	2, 4, 6, 7	
DL297	4:25pm	7:20pm	Daily		DL288	8:40pm	1:15am+1	Daily	
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)					OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN				
OZ119	4:00am	6:40am	Daily		OZ120	9:50pm	2:20am+1	Daily	
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)					BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN				
OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 6, 7		OZ607	9:00pm	1:50am+1	3, 5, 6	
OZ608	3:30am	6:40am	3		OZ607	9:35pm	2:25am+1	2	
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)					SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN				
OZ606	2:10am	6:00am	1		OZ603	9:00am	2:20pm	Daily	
OZ606	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7		OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	Daily via KIX	
OZ119	4:00am	11:20am	Daily via KIX		OZ605	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7	
OZ604	3:20pm	7:10pm	Daily		OZ605	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)					SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN				
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7		3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7	
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)					BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN				
MU7108	3:50am	7:00am	1, 5		MU7107	7:40pm	2:55am+1	4, 7	
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)					GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN				
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6		3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5	
SAIPAN-VLADIVOSTOK (VVO)					VLADIVOSTOK (VVO)-SAIPAN				
XF1734	6:30am	12:30pm	5		XF1733	8:00pm	12:05am+1	4	
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)					MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN				
OZ606/701	2:10am	11:15am	1		OZ704/603	12:10am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN	
OZ606/701	2:40am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7		DL172/288	8:05am	1:15am+1	Daily via NRT	
UA5070/191	4:35am	10:00am	6 via GUM		UA190/5077	10:55am	6:25pm	3, 6 via GUM	
UA5070/191	4:40am	10:00am	3		UA190/5079	10:55am	9:10pm	3, 6 via GUM	
DL287/173	6:00am	10:25pm	Daily via NRT		OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN	
UA5076/183	3:10pm	9:30pm	2, 5 via GUM		OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN	
UA5076/183	3:10pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM		PR110/UA5071	10:10pm	8:00am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM	
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	Daily via ICN		UA184/5071	10:55pm	7:55am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	
UA5072/PR111	9:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM		UA184/5071	11:59pm	7:55am+1	2, 5 via GUM	
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)					HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN				
OZ606/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN		OZ746/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN	
OZ606/721	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN		OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN	
UA5076/147	3:10pm	10:30pm	1, 5 via GUM		OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN	
OZ604/749	3:20pm	11:00pm	Daily via ICN		UA180/5071	11:25pm	10:40am+1	1 via GUM	
					UA180/5077	11:25pm	6:25pm+1	5 via GUM	
LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air.									
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The <i>Saipan Tribune</i> is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)									

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE									
Airline				ETD	ETA	Airline			
Guam-Rota						FRE 115			
FRE 100				7:30	8:00	FRE 117			
Rota-Saipan						FRE 119			
FRE 100				8:20	8:50	FRE 121			
Guam-Rota						FRE 123			
FRE 300				17:00	17:30	FRE 125			
Rota-Saipan									
FRE 400				18:55	19:25	Tinian-Saipan			
Saipan-Rota						FRE 102			
FRE 200				9:30	10:00	FRE 104			
Rota-Guam						FRE 106			
Saipan-Rota				10:20	10:45	FRE 108			
FRE 400				18:55	19:25	FRE 110			
Rota-Guam						FRE 112			
FRE 400				19:40	20:10	FRE 114			
Saipan-Tinian						FRE 116			
FRE 101				6:45	6:55	FRE 118			
FRE 103				7:30	7:40	FRE 120			
FRE 105				8:00	8:10	FRE 122			
FRE 107				8:40	8:50	FRE 124			
FRE 109				9:10	9:20	FRE 126			
FRE 111				10:45	10:55				

Business

Boeing 787 investigation turns to battery maker

TOKYO (AP)—Japanese and U.S. investigators began a probe into the maker of the lithium ion batteries used in Boeing's grounded 787 jets.

Tsutomu Nishijima, a spokesman for GS Yuasa, the battery manufacturer, said investigators visited the company's headquarters in Kyoto, Japan, on

Public trust in govt, business leaders falls

FRANKFURT, Germany (AP)—Public trust in business, government and media leaders has fallen in the wake of financial and political scandals, according to a new global survey.

Heads of financial institutions did particularly poorly, mainly in richer countries that have suffered financial crises and fined banks for, among other things, manipulating markets and facilitating money-laundering.

The 2013 edition of the annual Edelman Trust Barometer found "a very significant crisis of leadership," said Richard Edelman, president and CEO of Chicago-based public relations firm Edelman. "Leaders are just not seen as leading."

A big problem is that people think their leaders "just can't get around to telling them the truth," he said.

As a result, people are increasingly looking to other sources of information for the straight story about what's going on, such as academic experts or even their peers through social media and the Internet.

Edelman said one of the glaring results of the annual survey, released ahead of the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, was that while 50 percent respondents trusted business in general to do what is right, only 18 percent trusted business leaders to tell the truth—a 32-percentage point gap between the institution itself and the people in charge. Government didn't

look much better, with 41 percent trusting government to do what's right.

The overall share of people expressing trust in basic institutions rose in the survey from the 2012 edition, to 57 percent from 51 percent, as trust bounced back from the hit it took from the European debt crisis and disputes between President Barack Obama and Republicans in Congress over the U.S. debt limit, which caused the U.S. to losing its top credit rating. Yet while institutions were recovering some lost trust, the view of the leaders of those institutions remained sour.

Edelman suggested that the result may have been influenced by prominent corporate political and financial scandals—the investigation into alleged rigging by big banks of the London Interbank Offered Rate, an important interest rate benchmark, insider trading cases in the United States and Britain, and the scandal surrounding Chinese politician Bo Xilai, who faces trial on corruption charges.

Leaders' truthfulness score in the survey was "pretty pathetic," Edelman told the Associated Press in an interview.

The survey measured rising levels of trust for non-government organizations. "The trust is now being placed in an expert, such as an academic, or in a peer—someone, your friends on Facebook, or whoever," he said.



This Thursday, Jan. 17, 2013 photo provided by the Japan Transport Safety Board shows the distorted main lithium-ion battery, left, and an undamaged auxiliary battery of the All Nippon Airways' Boeing 787 which made an emergency landing on Wednesday, Jan. 16, 2013 at Takamatsu airport in Takamatsu, western Japan.

Monday and that Yuasa was co-operating with the probe.

All 50 of the 787 Dreamliners that Boeing has delivered to airlines were grounded after an overheated battery forced the emergency landing of an All Nippon Airways 787 flight last week in western Japan. Boeing has halted deliveries of new planes until it can address the electrical problems.

Monday's investigation involved an introductory meeting and factory tour, with deeper studies into product quality and other issues to follow as the probe continues, said Tatsuyuki Shimazu, the chief air worthiness engineer at the Civil Aviation Bureau's Aviation Safety

Department.

Two investigators from the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration and an investigator from Japan's government were conducting the probe into how the batteries are made and assembled and into any quality issues, he said.

"We are in the midst of collecting information, so as to whether there is a problem or not has not yet been deter-

mined," Shimazu said.

Nishijima of GS Yuasa said he could not comment on details of the investigation.

The burned insides of the ANA battery showed it received voltage in excess of its design limits. However, a battery that caught fire in a Japan Airlines Boeing 787 in Boston earlier this month was found not to have been overcharged.

U.S. government investiga-

tors said there could still be problems with wiring or other charging components.

In the U.S., investigators from the National Transportation Safety Board planned to meet Tuesday with officials from Securoplane Technologies Inc., manufacturer of the charger for the 787s lithium ion batteries, at the company's headquarters in Tucson, Ariz., board spokeswoman Kelly Nantel said.

Bank of Japan sets 2 percent inflation target

TOKYO (AP)—Bowing to government pressure, Japan's central bank Tuesday pledged more aggressive action to boost the economy, including setting a 2 percent inflation target.

The Bank of Japan said it would conduct "open-ended" asset purchases to help achieve the goal of breaking out of a long spell of deflation.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe had urged the central bank to ease monetary policy further to help the recession-struck economy escape from years of falling prices.

Whether the effort will succeed remains to be seen: the central bank has not achieved even its 1 percent inflation target, with price increases hovering below 0.5 percent for the past two years despite surges in energy costs.

The central bank described its inflation goal as a "price stability target."

"Under the price stability target, the bank will pursue monetary easing and aim to achieve this target at the earliest

possible time," it said.

But it said it would also "ascertain whether there is any significant risk to the sustainability of economic growth, including from the accumulation of financial imbalances."

Among the risks are a ballooning public debt, already well over twice the size of Japan's gross domestic product.

Abe's government is seeking to spur growth both through heavy government spending on public works and other projects and through monetary easing. The announcement by the central bank Tuesday was in line with expectations.

The government was determined that the central bank set a 2 percent inflation target, trade minister Toshimitsu Motegi told reporters on Monday.

"We want a clear inflation target to aim for," Motegi said. "Other countries have inflation targets, and it's not just 1 percent. They are all at least 2 percent," he said.

Motegi said the monetary

easing, which has involved tens of trillions of yen (hundreds of billions of dollars) in asset purchases and years of near-zero interest rates, so far has been "inadequate."

The Abe government is expected to nominate as Bank of Japan governor an expert known to favor its policies when the term of the current governor, Masaaki Shirakawa, ends this spring.

However, Motegi rejected accusations that the government's demands are meant to erode the central bank's independent status.

"We are not doing this to gang up and pick on Mr. Shirakawa," he said. But he added that "the policy of aiming to escape deflation will not change, not today, not tomorrow or the day after tomorrow."

Critics of the government's strategy of pushing for more inflation argue that it will do little to stimulate real demand in the economy if it pushes up prices without accompanying gains in purchasing power.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Oil price dips, trading muted on US public holiday

The price of crude oil slipped closer to \$95 a barrel on Monday, with energy investors keeping to the sidelines as U.S. markets were closed for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. Benchmark oil for February delivery fell 9 cents to settle at \$95.47 a barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract rose 7 cents to finish at \$95.56 per barrel on the Nymex on Friday. "Due to the lack of major economic indicators, investors will be looking for some direction to the global equity markets and the U.S. dollar movements," said a report from Succden Financial Research in London.

Atari US files for Ch. 11 to separate from parent

NEW YORK (AP)—Video game maker Atari's U.S. operations have filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection in an effort to separate from their French parent company, which is filing a similar motion separately in France. In a statement, Atari says

the move is necessary to secure investments it needs to grow in mobile and downloadable video games. Atari's U.S. operations have shifted to focus on digital games and licensing, including developing mobile games, and have become a growth engine for its owner. France's Infogrames Entertainment first took a stake in Atari in 2000. It acquired the remaining stake in 2008 and changed its name to Atari S.A.

Kim Dotcom's Mega site struggles under mega demand

SYDNEY (AP)—Indicted Megaupload founder Kim Dotcom admits his new file-sharing site is struggling to keep up with massive demand. Dotcom launched the "Mega" site with a lavish party on Sunday, the anniversary of his arrest on racketeering charges related to his now-shuttered Megaupload. Dotcom says 500,000 users registered for Mega within 14 hours. On Tuesday, Dotcom apologized on Twitter for "poor service" and said the launch party—which featured a reenactment of last year's police raid on his mansion—led to huge publicity and huge demand.



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\$189.00



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Cleaner
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(only Iron)
\$12.95



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\$24.95

Queen Size Mattress **\$149.95**



Webster All-Purpose Duster
with Telescopic Handle
\$2.99



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Assorted Colors **\$29.95 ea.**



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Fabric
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Trash Can
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\$16.95



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MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

Nation

Time to act, Obama declares, taking oath 2nd time



President Barack Obama and first lady Michelle Obama begin to dance together at the Commander-in-Chief's Inaugural Ball in Washington, at the Washington Convention Center during the 57th Presidential Inauguration Monday, Jan. 21, 2013.

WASHINGTON (AP)—Turning the page on years of war and recession, President Barack Obama summoned a divided nation Monday to act with “passion and dedication” to broaden equality and prosperity at home, nurture democracy around the world and combat global warming as he embarked on a second term before a vast and cheering crowd that spilled down the historic National Mall.

“America’s possibilities are limitless, for we possess all the qualities that this world without boundaries demands,” the 44th president declared in

a second inaugural address that broke new ground by assigning gay rights a prominent place in the wider struggle for equality for all.

In a unity plea to politicians and the nation at large, he called for “collective action” to confront challenges and said, “Progress does not compel us to settle centuries-long debates about the role of government for all time - but it does require us to act in our time.”

Elected four years ago as America’s first black president, Obama spoke from specially constructed flag-bedecked

stands outside the Capitol after reciting oath of office that all presidents have uttered since the nation’s founding.

The events highlighted a day replete with all the fanfare that a security-minded capital could muster—from white-gloved Marine trumpeters who heralded the arrival of dignitaries on the inaugural stands to the mid-winter orange flowers that graced the tables at a traditional lunch with lawmakers inside the Capitol.

The weather was relatively warm, in the mid-40s, and while the crowd was not as large as

on Inauguration Day four years ago, it was estimated at up to 1 million.

Big enough that he turned around as he was leaving the inaugural stands to savor the view one final time.

“I’m not going to see this again,” said the man whose political career has been meteoric—from the Illinois Legislature to the U.S. Senate and the White House before marking his 48th birthday.

On a day of renewal for democracy, everyone seemed to have an opinion, and many seemed eager to share it.

“I’m just thankful that we’ve got another four years

Obama pledges to deal with climate change

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama pledged in his inaugural address Monday to respond to the threat of climate change, saying the “failure to do so would betray our children and future generations.”

By singling out climate change for several lines of his speech, he is taking on an issue that he acknowledges was often overlooked during his first term and setting up a confrontation with congressional Republicans who have opposed legislative efforts to curb global warming.

“Some may still deny the overwhelming judgment of science” that global warming exists and has human causes, Obama said, “but none can avoid the devastating impact of raging fires and crippling drought and more powerful storms.”

The president has pledged to boost renewable energy sources such as wind and solar power, along with more traditional energy sources such as coal, oil and natural gas.

“The path towards sustainable energy sources will be long and sometimes difficult. But America cannot resist this transition. We must lead it,” Obama said.

He said developing new energy technologies will lead to jobs and new industries. “That is how we will preserve our planet,” he said.

Environmental groups hailed Obama’s new focus on climate change but said the president’s words will soon be tested as he decides whether to approve the Keystone XL oil pipeline from Canada.

Obama blocked the pipeline last year, citing uncertainty over the project’s route through environmentally sensitive land in Nebraska. The State Department has federal jurisdiction because the \$7 billion pipeline begins in Canada.

Republicans and many business groups say the project would help achieve energy independence for North America and create thousands of jobs.

of democracy that everyone can grow in,” said Wilbur Cole, 52, a postman from suburban Memphis, Tenn., who spent part of the day visiting the civil rights museum there at the site where the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated in 1968.

The inauguration this year shared the day with King’s birthday holiday, and the president used a Bible that had belonged to the civil rights leader for the swearing-in, along with

a second one that been Abraham Lincoln’s. The president also paused inside the Capitol Rotunda to gaze at a dark bronze statue of King.

Others watching at a distance were less upbeat than Cole. Frank Pinto, 62, and an unemployed construction contractor, took in the inaugural events on television at a bar in Hartford, Conn. He said because of the president’s policies, “My grandkids will be in debt and their kids will be in debt.”

Nation honors King on day of Obama inauguration

ATLANTA (AP)—Commemorative events for the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. slid seamlessly into celebrations of the swearing-in Monday of the nation’s first black president, with many Americans moved by the reminder of how far the country has come since the 1960s.

“This is the dream that Dr. King talked about in his speech. We see history in the making,” said Joyce Oliver, who observed King Day by visiting the National Civil Rights Museum in Memphis, Tenn., built on the site of the old Lorraine Motel, where King was assassinated in 1968.

In Atlanta, at the 45th annual service for the civil rights leader at the church where he was pastor, those gathered in the sanctuary were invited to stay to watch President Barack Obama’s second inauguration on a big-screen TV.

As the nearly three-hour service closed at Ebenezer Baptist Church, organizers suggested forgoing the traditional singing of “We Shall Overcome” because the inauguration would begin. But the crowd shouted protests, so the choir and congregation sang the civil rights anthem before settling in to watch the events in Washington.

In the nation’s capital, dozens took pictures of the King statue before walking to the National Mall for the inauguration.

Nicole Hailey, 34, drove all night with her family from Monroe, N.C. She attended Obama’s first inauguration four years ago and was carrying a commemorative Metro ticket from that day with Obama’s face on it.

She and her family visited the King memorial before the swearing-in.

“It’s Martin Luther King’s special day,” she said. “We’re just celebrating freedom.”

At the ceremonial inauguration, Obama took the oath on a Bible once owned by King. He called it “a great privilege.” The King Bible was one of two used; the other had belonged to Abraham Lincoln.

In Columbia, S.C., civil rights leaders paused during their annual King Day rally to watch the inauguration on a big screen. Most of the crowd of several hundred stayed to watch Obama’s address.

“You feel like anything is possible,” Jelin Cunningham, a 15-year-old black girl, said of Obama’s presidency. “I’ve learned words alone can’t hurt or stop you, because there have been so many hateful things said about him over the past four years.”

Study: High school grad rate highest since ‘76

By PHILIP ELLIOTT
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON (AP)—The nation’s high school graduation rate is the highest since 1976, but more than a fifth of students are still failing to get their diploma in four years, the Education Department said in a study released Tuesday.

Officials said the steady rise of students completing their education is a reflection of the struggling economy and a greater competition for new jobs.

“If you drop out of high school, how many good jobs are there out there for you? None. That wasn’t true 10 or 15 years ago,” Education Secretary Arne Duncan said in an interview with The Associated Press.

The national dropout rate was about 3 percent overall,

down from the year before. Many students who don’t receive their diplomas in four years stay in school, taking five years or more to finish their coursework.

Some 3.1 million students nationwide earned their high school diplomas in the spring of 2010, with 78 percent of students finishing on time. That’s the best since a 75 percent on-time graduation rate during the 1975-76 academic year.

The only better rate was 79 percent in 1969-70, a figure the department wouldn’t vouch for.

There were tremendous differences among the states in 2010. Fifty-eight percent of students in Nevada and 60 percent in Washington, D.C., completed their high school education in four years. By comparison, 91 percent of stu-

dents in Wisconsin and Vermont did, according to the report.

Graduation rates increased by more than a percentage point in 38 states between 2009 and 2010, the study found. Only the District of Columbia saw its graduation rates decline between by greater than a percentage point during those years.

Among the most significant factors of the increase was the dire U.S. economy after the 2008 Wall Street meltdown. During the 2009-10 academic year, unemployment ranged from 9.4 percent to 10 percent.

“When I grew up on the South Side of Chicago it wasn’t great, but I had lots of friends who dropped out and they could go work in the stockyards or steel mills and they could buy a home, support a family, do OK,” Duncan said.

Asia

Taliban attacks show Afghan insurgents' resilience

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—Taliban suicide bombers carried out a brazen attack in the Afghan capital on Monday, the second in less than a week and a sign that insurgents are determined to keep fighting despite recent overtures of peace from the U.S. and Afghan government.

The nine-hour assault on the traffic police headquarters, which sent heavy black smoke rising over Kabul, was the second such attack in the heart of the snow-covered capital in six days.

It came a week after the Afghan and American presidents agreed that the Taliban should open a political office in the Gulf state of Qatar to facilitate possible reconciliation with the hardline Islamic group. And it occurred just days after Pakistan announced it would release more Taliban detainees to help jumpstart the fragile peace process.

The pre-dawn attack began

with two Taliban suicide bombers blowing themselves up at the gates of the police headquarters. Three heavily armed militants, also wearing explosive vests, then stormed the compound, authorities said.

About 90 minutes later, a car packed with explosives blew up near the gate. Such secondary explosive devices often are rigged to timers and designed to kill people responding to the attack.

The three militants who entered the compound battled Afghan security forces for nine hours. Three policemen were killed, said Interior Ministry spokesman Sediq Sediqi. Four traffic policemen and 10 civilians were wounded, he said.

Kabul Police Chief Gen. Mohammad Ayub Salangi said two suicide bombers died at the gate when they detonated their explosive vests, another blew himself up inside the building and two more were shot and

killed by security forces before they managed to detonate their suicide vests.

Taliban spokesman Zabiullah Mujahid claimed responsibility for the attack, which he said targeted a police training facility "run by foreign military forces."

The traffic police headquarters is not heavily guarded, though it is located on a square leading to the parliament and close to a zoo. It also is adjacent to the Afghan Border Police headquarters and a police training facility—possibly the insurgents' primary target. The traffic police facility, usually teeming with civilians seeking driver's licenses and vehicle registrations, was nearly empty when the attack began before the morning rush hour.

The Interior Ministry said many of the civilians were injured by the powerful car bomb. Some were in their homes and hit by shattered pieces of glass.

India gang-rape trial opens Thursday in new court

NEW DELHI (AP)—The trial of five men accused of the rape and murder of a student aboard a bus in New Delhi will begin Thursday and should have none of the long delays commonly associated with India's justice system, a defense lawyer said after a brief hearing.

Judge Yogesh Khanna denied a defense motion to make the proceedings public, ruling that the courtroom must remain closed because of the sensitive nature of the crime, said V.K. Anand, the lawyer for one of the defendants, Ram Singh.

The extreme brutality of the attack has sparked weeks of protests and focused global attention on India's rarely discussed crisis of violence against women. Monday's hearing was the first since the case was moved to a new fast-track court set up specifically to

handle such crimes.

The five defendants' faces were covered by woolen scarves as they arrived in the court, surrounded by a phalanx of police. A sixth suspect in the attack claims to be a juvenile and his case is being handled separately.

The judge told the lawyers to prepare for opening statements to begin Thursday and agreed to a defense motion to hold the trial every day throughout the week, instead of allowing the gaps of weeks and months between hearings common in other courts, Anand said.

Defense lawyers are awaiting a decision by the Supreme Court on their motion to move the trial outside New Delhi because of the strong emotions in the city.

Police say the victim and a male friend were heading home from an evening movie Dec. 16

when they boarded a bus, where they were attacked by the six assailants. The attackers beat the man and raped the woman, inflicting massive internal injuries with a metal bar, police said.

The victims were eventually dumped on the roadside, and the woman died two weeks later in a Singapore hospital.

Lawyers for the accused say police mistreated their clients and beat them to force them to confess.

Another defense lawyer, A.P. Singh, asked the judge to allow a special bone test on one of his clients to ascertain whether he is also a juvenile, the lawyer said. The judge reserved his ruling, he said.

The attack has sparked demands for wholesale changes in the way the country deals with crimes against women.

tude at 6.0 and said the inland quake caused no tsunami. It was centered southwest of the city of Banda Aceh and 10 miles (6 kilometers) beneath the earth's crust, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. The quake hit about 5:22 a.m. (22:22 GMT Monday), rattling people awake in towns and villages across the Sumatra island's northern tip. A magnitude-4.7 aftershock quake followed a few minutes later.

China's young in crisis of declining fitness

BEIJING (AP)—Despite its formidable performance in recent Olympic Games, China has found itself in a crisis of declining fitness among its youngsters. The government has urged schools to beef up their physical education following a recent outcry touched off when two college students collapsed and died during mandatory annual running exams. Obesity rates among Chinese students have been climbing. Experts attribute deteriorating fitness scores to the cruelly competitive environment for college admissions, as well as a proliferation of indoor entertainment like video games and online activities.

World

Inside job, 2 Canadian militants in Algeria siege



Algerian firemen carry a coffin containing a person killed during the gas facility hostage situation at the morgue in Ain Amenas, Algeria, Monday, Jan. 21, 2013.

ALGIERS, Algeria (AP)—The hostage-taking at a remote Algerian gas plant was carried out by 30 militants from across the northern swath of Africa and two from Canada, authorities said. The militants, who wore military uniforms and knew the layout, included explosives experts who rigged it with bombs and a leader whose final order was to kill all the captives.

The operation also had help with inside knowledge—a former driver at the plant, Algeria's prime minister said Monday.

In all, 38 workers and 29 militants died, the Algerian prime minister said Monday,

offering the government's first detailed account of four days of chaos that ended with a bloody military raid he defended as the only way possible to end the standoff. Five foreigners are still missing.

"You may have heard the last words of the terrorist chief," Algerian Prime Minister Abdelmalek Sellal told reporters. "He gave the order for all the foreigners to be killed, so there was a mass execution, many hostages were killed by a bullet to the head."

Monday's account offered the first Algerian government narrative of the standoff, from the moment of the attempted bus hijacking on Wednesday to

the moment when the attackers prepared Saturday to detonate bombs across the sprawling complex. That's when Algerian special forces moved in for the second and final time.

All but one of the dead victims—an Algerian security guard—were foreigners. The dead hostages included seven Japanese workers, six Filipinos, three energy workers each from the U.S. and Britain, two from Romania and one worker from France.

The prime minister said three attackers were captured but did not specify their nationalities or their conditions or say where they were being held.

Moscow to start evacuating Russians from Syria

BEIRUT (AP)—Russia said Monday it is sending two planes to Lebanon to start evacuating its citizens from Syria, the strongest sign yet that President Bashar Assad's most important international ally has serious doubts about his ability to cling to power.

The Russian announcement came as anti-government activists reported violence around the country, including air raids on the town of Beit Sahm near Damascus International Airport,

just south of the capital.

Russian officials said about 100 of the tens of thousands of Russian nationals in the country will be taken out overland to Lebanon and flown home from there, presumably because renewed fighting near the airport in Damascus has made it too dangerous for the foreigners to use that route out of the Syrian capital.

Assad has dismissed calls that he step down. He has proposed a national reconciliation conference, elections and a

new constitution, but the opposition insists he play no role in a resolution to the conflict. The U.N. says more than 60,000 people have died in the civil war since March 2011.

Russia has been Assad's main ally since the conflict began, using its veto power in the U.N. Security Council to shield Damascus from international sanctions.

Russia recently started to distance itself from the Syrian ruler, signaling that it is resigned to him losing power.

Israel's Netanyahu appears poised for third term

JERUSALEM (AP)—With no viable alternative in sight, incumbent Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu appears poised to secure a third term in office following Tuesday's general election.

Netanyahu wraps up four years of relatively stable reign, in which he boasts of pushing the Iranian nuclear threat to the top of the international agenda, deterring terrorism against Israel and

keeping its economy afloat despite a worldwide recession.

But critics point to a stalemate in peace talks with the Palestinians, an expansion of West Bank settlements and a rift with President Barack Obama that have characterized his term. A protest movement against the country's high cost of living has cut into his public support, and the huge deficit his government has run up promises

tough budget cuts following the election.

Even so, the country's splintered opposition parties and their largely inexperienced leaders have little hope of unseating him.

Together with his three-year term as premier in the late 1990s, Netanyahu, 63, has now served longer than any other Israeli prime minister besides the country's founding father, David Ben-Gurion.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Canadian kills 2 in Philippine court, is shot dead

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A Canadian man facing charges of illegal possession of firearms opened fire in a Philippine courtroom Tuesday, killing two people and wounding a prosecutor before police fatally shot him, officials said. The suspect, John H. Pope, appeared in court in central Cebu city, where he resided, to face the charges when he pulled out a gun and shot a lawyer and a physician who filed a case against him, police said. He then fired at a prosecutor in the hallway of the building before responding police fatally wounded him, said Cebu police chief Mariano Natuel. Regional police director Marcelo Garbo said Pope ignored orders to surrender and tried to fire at police.

Strong quake kills girl, ruins homes in Indonesia

BANDA ACEH, Indonesia (AP)—A strong, shallow earthquake rocked parts of western Indonesia early Tuesday, killing a 9-year-old girl, panicking residents and ruining homes. Several other people were injured. Indonesia's meteorology and geophysics agency put the preliminary magni-

Campus Life

Diploma dilemma for Europe graduates

By GREG KELLER
AP BUSINESS WRITER

PARIS (AP)—Estelle Borrell knew she wanted to work in law since she was a teenager, when she interned at a court in Versailles, France. “The lawyers in their black robes, they were like gods to me,” said the 24-year-old Parisian.

Borrell studied law at Vienna University, where she dreamed of putting her passion into practice at an international organization. She got a shock when she began working at a Vienna law firm.

“I knew how to resolve cases on paper, but when I got into the law firm it was really ridiculous,” Borrell said. “My boss asked me to call a judge and I was absolutely not able to do it. I didn’t even have the vocabulary I needed to do a really simple call.”

Borrell, who is now back in France seeking work while continuing legal studies in Paris, had found out firsthand what educators, industry and governments across the continent are slowly coming to acknowledge as globalization intensifies competition and a devastating economic crisis swells youth unemployment: Europe’s universities, many founded during the Middle Ages, are failing to prepare students for the demands of the 21st century world.

■ ■ ■

Outmoded teaching, overcrowded classrooms and even broken windows are common complaints by both teachers and students at French universities—even the Sorbonne, one of Europe’s oldest and most illustrious schools. Classes often begin with a hunt for spare chairs as classrooms built for 20 students regularly pack 40 or more. Sometimes students are forced to sit on tables or the floor. On Twitter, students post such complaints as: “Monday morning 9:00 in the constitutional law lecture at Paris 8, freezing my toes off, not very fun.”

Recently, a group of overwhelmed instructors at Paris University published an open letter to France’s education minister in daily newspaper *Liberation* to voice their frustration and call for the repeal of a reform that decentralized university control, which they blame for many of the universities’ woes.

In Spain, where universities are in even more dire financial straits, the heads of around 50 state-run universities recently made a joint statement warning of “irreparable deterioration” in education as crisis cutbacks choke academic institutions and threaten to hold back economic recovery.

Officials recognize the problem.

The European Commission, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development and the Federation of European Employers all have studies under way to examine why the continent’s universities are failing. The research aims to identify ways to better match universities’ output with the needs of employers, and hopefully help improve the job prospects of Europe’s graduates.

The failure of Europe’s universities is also reflected in their weak showing in the most closely-watched barometer of university performance—Shanghai Jiaotong University’s annual ranking



Estelle Borrell, 24, visits a job fair in Paris, Thursday, Oct. 4, 2012. Estelle Borrell knew she wanted to work in law since she was a teenager, when she interned at a court in Versailles, France. “The lawyers in their black robes, they were like gods to me,” said the 24-year-old Parisian. Borrell studied law at Vienna University, where she dreamed of putting her passion into practice at an international organization. She got a shock when she began working at a Vienna law firm.

ON THE NET

Follow The Class of 2012 on its new Google plus page:
<http://apne.ws/ClassOf2012>

of the world’s universities, which place only two European universities, Oxford and Cambridge, in the top 20. The Shanghai Ranking focuses on research, looking at things such as the number of Nobel Prizes and citations in top academic journals, but experts see a correlation between a faculty’s academic caliber and quality of education.

And it’s precisely the failings of European university teaching that are now increasingly being put under the microscope.

A recent study in Britain showed that an increasingly large number of graduates are failing to find graduate-level jobs. The Futuretrack survey by Warwick University’s Institute for Employment Research showed that the number of graduates still without graduate-level jobs two years after leaving university nearly doubled to 40 percent last year compared to 10 years ago.

Much of the blame can be placed on Europe’s economic crisis, but experts say the problem also lies with the universities themselves, which are often accused of imparting theoretical abstraction with little practical application in the real world.

Some experts complain that students need to acquire a whole new way of thinking once they leave university.

“In social sciences, arts, I.T., there is an enormous transition in which you almost have to tell people to forget what they’ve been studying so that they can see again,” said Robin Chater, secretary general of the Federation of European Employers.

Chater’s organization represents

multinational firms working in the EU, advising them on employment law and other matters, and also functions as a think tank focused on issues of concern to international businesses. Students’ lack of practical experience in real-world situations is an emerging cause of concern for the organization’s membership, Chater said.

That’s an experience Lucy Nicholls, a member of AP’s Class of 2012, knows well.

“I’m not saying universities should find you a job, but they should mentally prepare you for the big wide world and make you very much aware of what the climate is like...” said Nicholls, a 22-year-old fashion graduate in London. “It didn’t happen for me.”

Nicholls describes herself as “sorely disappointed” by her university education in Britain. “I expected to have some sort of lecture on maybe how to go freelance, how to go into the world of fashion because freelance is such a big part of that industry,” Nicholls said.

The need to reform Europe’s uni-

versities has been identified by both the EU Commission and independent experts.

Although graduate unemployment at 5.4 percent is significantly lower than overall youth unemployment, university curricula “are often slow to respond to changing needs in the wider economy,” said Dennis Abbott, spokesman for the EU Education Commissioner. In an email response to questions, Abbott said courses should be better tailored to the needs of the labor market, better guidance should be given in selecting courses, and students should be given more opportunities to develop entrepreneurial and work-relevant skills as part of their studies.

That’s precisely what Nicholls found lacking in her fashion studies. “I really just wasn’t given any opportunities,” she said. “I was very disappointed and I think the (university) could and should have done so much more.”

Data from the EU Commission show the disparity that exists between the EU and the United States in terms of spending on university education,

one factor that has been identified as a cause of European universities’ underperformance.

Total public and private spending on higher education in the European Union accounts for 1.3 percent of GDP, compared to 3.3 percent in the United States, according to EU figures cited in a 2008 report by the Brussels-based Bruegel think tank. On a per student basis, that translates to annual spending of euros 8,700 in the EU versus euros 36,500 in the US, Bruegel says.

Borrell, the French law student, saw the effects of this underfunding while in Vienna.

Her law school library shut as early as 4 p.m. some days, and was closed completely on weekends. “You can imagine what this means when exams are approaching and all of a sudden libraries are just literally stuffed with people,” Borrell said.

In its report, Bruegel recommended that the EU spend an extra 1 percent of GDP annual on higher education, and give universities more autonomy in budgets, hiring and faculty pay as a way of giving the additional spending “more bite.”

Maira Koffi, another member of the Class of 2012, last month finished her diploma in corporate communications from the Sorbonne journalism school. Her experience provides an optimistic tale of what Europe’s universities may be doing right.

“I’m very satisfied” with how her school, CELSA, prepared her for finding post-graduation employment. “There were courses to prepare you for interviews, and networking was a very important” part of the curriculum, Koffi said.

In her case, it paid off: Koffi has just signed her first work contract with an important public relations firm, working on social media campaigns.

“In social sciences, arts, I.T., there is an enormous transition in which you almost have to tell people to forget what they’ve been studying so that they can see again.”

Life & Style

WASHINGTON (AP)—AP journalists fanned out across the capital to cover Inauguration Day as part of a running feed of content and analysis. Here are their reports:

A NEW CHAPTER

No, this wasn't the euphoric celebration of 2009 that mesmerized a hungry nation clinging to promises of hope and change. Those times are long past.

But the inauguration of 2013 was history-making in its own right. It opened a new chapter in America's story—and Obama's, too.

We saw a confident president again promise to lead the nation. Only this time, as he took the oath of office, he was speaking to a country filled with fear and anxiety. Many Americans worry that we are in a state of perpetual decline. Many despise the fact that our politics have become so polarized and partisan. And many fear the country will slide back into recession because of it.

We saw Republicans—for one day, at least—choose not to fight with the president. Rather, they joined him in celebrating—through, gritted teeth, perhaps—this uniquely American day.

We saw Vice President Joe Biden take his turn at glad-handing the parade crowd, sharing the spotlight with the president and, perhaps, setting the stage for his own presidential run in 2016.

We saw Michelle Obama look radiant in a custom-made Jason Wu gown to the inauguration balls. The ruby-colored, velvet and chiffon evening dress was her final outfit of a day that began with her in a Thom Browne navy-silk, checkered-patterned coat and dress. And her new hairstyle: bangs or, as they are often called today, fringes.

We saw Malia Obama, 14, and Sasha, 11, at turns poised and playful as they embarked on their dad's second term as young ladies, the bulk of their childhoods now behind them.

We saw only half as many people show up to see Obama's inaugural address as in 2009. Somewhere between 800,000 and 1 million came to National Mall, compared with 1.8 million four years ago. We saw Washington turn into Hollywood and a music mecca, for a few hours at least as celebrities swarmed the city. We saw that it's possible to hold an inauguration in above-freezing temperatures, an anomaly for January in Washington.

And we saw that even in the most divisive of times, even amid the harshest of words, the house that our founding fathers built more than two centuries ago still stands tall, no matter what kind of politics the moment might hold. (Liz Sidoti)

CALLING THE PARENTS

Designer Jason Wu, who designed

Inauguration Watch: A special dress ends a big day



President Barack Obama bows as he and first lady Michelle Obama, wearing a ruby colored chiffon and velvet Jason Wu gown, gets ready to dance as singer Jennifer Hudson, right, sings Al Green's "Let's Stay Together" at the Inaugural Ball at the Washington Convention Center during the 57th Presidential Inauguration in Washington, Monday, Jan. 21, 2013.

Michelle Obama's red halter gown as well as the white one she wore four years ago, spent recent minutes playing trying to reach his parents in Taiwan to share his news. "They're in two different places right now, so it's been phone tag." (Samantha Critchell)

WE ARE YOUNG

The crowd at the official Inaugural Ball appeared somewhat dazed, even bored, as they awaited the president and first lady's arrival.

All that changed when the band fun. broke out into a song they knew by heart. Camera phones in the air, they joined in: "Tonight, we are young. So let's set the world on fire..."

In unison they sang, until the last verse, when the lead singer's mic cut out. Then it was just the guests filling the massive convention center with the youthful chorus. (Josh Lederman)

A SONG HE KNOWS

Jennifer Hudson showed them how it's done at the Commander in Chief's Ball tonight. President Barack Obama danced with first lady Michelle Obama as Hudson cut loose with a rousing rendition of Al Green's "Let's Stay Together."

That song and Obama are not strangers.

The last time Obama met that song in public was a year ago, at a fundraiser at New York's famed Apollo Theater. He crooned a few bars, to the delight of the crowd. Then he joked he'd survived the Sandman—a reference to Sandman Sims, the tap dancer who chased unpopular acts offstage

at the Apollo for decades.

Also: Here's what you've undoubtedly been looking for—a picture of the first lady and her gown. (Michele Salcedo)

MAY I HAVE THIS DANCE?

Barack Obama stood on the stage of the Commander-in-Chief Ball and spoke of the woman he loved. "I've got a date with me here," he said. "She inspires me every day. She makes me a better man and a better president. The fact that she is so devoted to taking care of our troops and our military families is just one more sign of her extraordinary love and grace and strength. I'm just lucky to have her."

Then Michelle Obama emerged, resplendent, and joined him for a dance to "Let's Stay Together," performed by Jennifer Hudson. The president held her cheek to cheek and she whispered to him and sang along.

The First Lady is wearing a custom Jason Wu ruby colored chiffon and velvet gown with a handmade diamond embellished ring by jewelry designer Kimberly McDonald. She is wearing shoes designed by Jimmy Choo. At the end of the inaugural festivities, the outfit and accompanying accessories will go to the National Archives.

As for what you're probably waiting for, stay tuned to this space for the upcoming photo of the first lady. Oh, yes, and that guy who's the president of the United States. (Josh Lederman)

'CHANGE THE LANGUAGE'

"I loved it. Especially when the

president talked about ending the name-calling. We need to change the language we use." - Patricia Cooper, 51, of Upper Marlboro, Md. who teaches technology in the Washington, D.C., schools. (Jocelyn Noveck)

DRESSED UP

"Let me begin by just sayin', you all dress up pretty nice."—Barack Obama, at the Commander-in-Chief Ball just now.

SPECIAL BIBLE

As the nation observed both Martin Luther King Day and Barack Obama's second inaugural, the president left his mark on an artifact with deep significance for the civil rights movement.

After Obama was sworn in at the Capitol, the president and Supreme Court Chief Justice John Roberts inscribed the King family Bible. That's according to a White House official, who says the King family requested the inscription. (Josh Lederman)

'NOT MY PRESIDENT'

John Diamond of Arlington, Va., spent part of the day handing out fliers inviting people to a "disinauguration ball" as people exited the inauguration ceremony.

"Not my president," said the fliers, which featured the classic Obama "O" logo as part of the word "not." They were inviting people to an event in Virginia later today.

Diamond, who didn't vote in this past election, says he wants to encourage peace and opposes the drone attacks the president has authorized.

"We're just out here cel-

One wonders whether Irving Berlin ever considered what it would be like to hear his famous song in bagpipe.

Barack Obama began the second term of his presidency today in many ways. You could say he began it leading a fractious nation (many did). You could say he began it with daunting tasks at hand (certainly true). Or you could say, quite accurately, that he began his second four years as leader of the free world by spending quite a bit of time listening to unusual and diverse versions of American musical standards.

The works of John Philip Sousa, who was born on Capitol Hill in 1854, turned up more than once, and one wonders how many people these days can identify "Stars and Stripes Forever" (1896) anymore. "My Country 'Tis of Thee" (1831) made several appearances, too, with few people perhaps considering that it shares a melody with Britain's "God Save the Queen."

This after some high-ticket performers tried their hands. James Taylor pulled off a very affecting "America the Beautiful" (first published in 1910). Kelly Clarkson chimed in with an off-beat "My Country 'Tis of Thee." And Beyonce belting out "The Star-Spangled Banner" Electric.

The inevitable "Hail to the Chief," of course, which was first used for the president in the early 1800s, popped up regularly through the day, and "The Battle Hymn of the Republic" (1861) echoed through the streets of Washington more than once as well. If you were watching and listening, you heard the best of the American songbag presented in ways as varied and diverse as America itself. Exciting stuff. (Ted Anthony)

celebrating freedom," Diamond said, "and trying to get people to think about the fact that we don't need violence to control people or dictate the behaviors of other people and we should start looking for alternatives." (Jessica Gresko)

HALF A LOAF

President Barack Obama is fond of saying: "We cannot let the perfect be the enemy of the good." His point: sometimes we have to settle for half a loaf.

Well, that's what he got in Washington today during his second inauguration—in attendance, that is.

Turnout was "definitely above 800,000" and possibly up to 1 million people, according to Chris Geldart, who directs the District of Columbia's homeland security and emergency management agency. That estimate is based on aerial views of how the crowd filled sections of the mall.

That's about half of the 1.8 million people who showed up for Obama's first inauguration in 2009. (Liz Sidoti)

AMERICAN SONGBAG

It was at 6:31 p.m. tonight, just before the inaugural parade ended, that the bagpipers passed the president's reviewing stand playing their oddly compelling medley of "America, the Beautiful" and "God Bless America."

FIRST YEAR DEATH ANNIVERSARY

In Loving Memory of

**Ernesto
Dela Rosa
Palero**

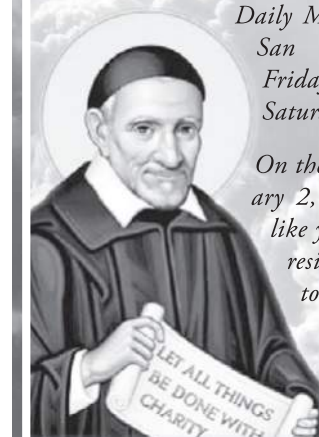
We the family, invite all our relatives and friends to join us in commemorating the First Year Death Anniversary of our beloved father and friend.

Daily Mass will offered at 6:00pm at San Vicente Church, beginning Friday, January 25, 2013 through Saturday, February 2, 2013.

On the final day on Saturday, February 2, 2013, after Mass, we would like you to join us for dinner at our residence in Garapan, located next to Himawari.

Thank you.

The Family



UK's Prince Harry returns from Afghanistan

LONDON (AP)—Capt. Wales is coming home to be Prince Harry once again.

The Ministry of Defense revealed Monday that the 28-year-old prince is returning from a five-month deployment in Afghanistan, where he served as an Apache helicopter pilot with the Army Air Corps. It did not immediately divulge his exact whereabouts.

In interviews conducted in Afghanistan, the third in line to the British throne described feeling boredom, frustration and satisfaction during a tour that saw him fire at Taliban fighters on missions in support of ground troops.

When asked whether he had killed from the cockpit, he said: "Yea, so lots of people have."

He also spoke of his struggle to balance his job as an army officer with his royal role—and his relief at the chance to be "one of the guys."

"My father's always trying to remind me about who I am and stuff like that," said Harry, the younger son of Prince Charles and the late Princess Diana. "But it's very easy to forget about who I am when I am in the army. Everyone's wearing the same uniform and doing the same kind of thing."

Stationed at Camp Bastion, a sprawling British base in the southern Afghan desert, the prince—known as Capt. Wales in the military—flew scores of missions as a co-pilot gunner, sometimes firing rockets and missiles at Taliban fighters.

"Take a life to save a life. That's what we revolve around, I suppose," he said. "If there's people trying to do bad stuff to our guys, then we'll take them out of the game."

Harry's second tour in Afghanistan went more smoothly than the first, in 2007-2008, which was cut short after 10 weeks when a magazine and websites disclosed details of his whereabouts. British media had agreed to a news blackout on security grounds.

This time, the media were allowed limited access to the prince in return for not reporting operational details.

A member of the air corps' 662 Squadron, the prince was part of a two-man crew whose duties ranged from supporting ground troops in firefights with the Taliban to accompanying British Chinook and U.S. Black Hawk helicopters as they evacuated wounded soldiers.

He said that while sometimes it was necessary to fire on insurgents, the formidable helicopter—equipped with wing-mounted rockets, Hellfire laser-guided missiles and a 30mm machine gun—was usually an effective deterrent.

Harry shared a room with another pilot in a basic accommodation block made from shipping containers, and passed the time between callouts playing video



In this photo taken Dec. 12, 2012, made available Monday Jan. 21, 2013 of Britain's Prince Harry or just plain Captain Wales as he is known in the British Army, makes his early morning pre-flight checks on the flight-line, from Camp Bastion southern Afghanistan.

games and watching movies with his fellow officers. His security detail accompanied him on base, but not when flying.

"It's as normal as it's going to get," Harry said of the arrangement. "I'm one of the guys. I don't get treated any differently."

But he said he still received unwanted attention at Camp Bastion, which is home to thousands of troops.

"For me it's not that normal because I go into the cookhouse and everyone has a good old gawp, and that's one thing that I dislike about being here," he said. "Because there's plenty of guys in there that have never met me, therefore look at me as

Prince Harry and not as Capt. Wales, which is frustrating."

Ever since Harry graduated from the Sandhurst military academy in 2006, his desire for a military career has collided with his royal role. After his curtailed first Afghan deployment, he retrained as a helicopter pilot in order to have the chance of being sent back.

The speed and height at which Apaches fly make them hard for insurgents to shoot down, but Harry's squadron commander, Maj. Ali Mack, said the prince had still faced real danger.

"There is nothing routine about deploying to an operational theater—where there is absolutely

an insurgency—and flying an attack helicopter in support of both ISAF and Afghan security forces," Mack said.

The danger was underscored soon after Harry arrived at Camp Bastion in September, when insurgents attacked the adjacent U.S. base, Camp Leatherneck, killing two U.S. marines and wounding several other troops.

Harry said he would have preferred to have been deployed on the ground with his old regiment, the Household Cavalry, rather than spending his tour of duty at Camp Bastion, a fortified mini-city replete with shops, gyms and a Pizza Hut

restaurant.

Harry said it was "a pain in the arse, being stuck in Bastion."

"I'd much rather be out with the lads in a PB (patrol base)," he said.

Despite the frustrations of base life, Harry said he relished the flying: "As soon as we're outside the fence, we're in the thick of it."

"Yes, OK, we're supposedly safe, but anything can go wrong with this thing, but at the end of the day we're out there to provide cover and protection for the guys on the ground," he said.

Many of Harry's family have also seen combat—most recently his uncle, Prince Andrew,

who flew Royal Navy helicopters during the 1982 Falklands War. His grandfather, Prince Philip, served on Royal Navy battleships during World War II.

Older brother William, who is second in line to the throne, is a Royal Air Force search-and-rescue pilot. He, too, has expressed a desire to serve on the front line, but officials consider it too dangerous.

Harry said he thought William should be allowed to serve in combat.

"Yes, you get shot at. But if the guys who are doing the same job as us are being shot at on the ground, I don't think there's anything wrong with us being shot at as well."

"People back home will have issues with that, but we're not special. The guys out there are. Simple as that."

He said that while William was envious of his Afghan experience, his elder brother's job had its advantages.

"He gets to go home to his wife and his dog, whereas out here we don't," Harry said. "We're stuck playing PlayStation in a tent full of men."

After the respite from scrutiny, the prince is returning to a Harry-hungry media eager for images of the eligible bachelor, and stories of his off-duty escapades.

Just before he went to Afghanistan, Harry hit the headlines during a game of strip billiards at a Las Vegas hotel.

He apologized for the incident. "It was probably a classic example of me probably being too much army, and not enough prince," he said.

But the prince was frank about his frustration with the intense coverage he faces. He said his deep distrust of the press began when he was little, but he still reads what's written about him despite others' advice that he shouldn't, "because it's always rubbish."

"I probably let myself down, I let my family down, I let other people down," Harry said. "But at the end of the day I was in a private area and there should be a certain amount of privacy that one should expect."

Later in the year he hopes to join a group of injured servicemen on a charity race to the South Pole, and in July he is due to become an uncle when William's wife Catherine gives birth to her first child.

Harry said that he "can't wait" to be an uncle, but hoped that Kate would be given privacy during her pregnancy.

And he conceded that he felt more comfortable as Capt. Wales than as Prince Harry.

He said he tried to balance three facets of his life—"one in the army, one socially in my own private time, and then one with the family and stuff like that."

"So there is a switch and I flick it when necessary," he said.

"Army comes first. It's my work at the end of the day."

Legend, 2 Chainz, MC Lyte honored at Hip-Hop Ball

WASHINGTON (AP)—John Legend believes hip-hop played its part in helping Barack Obama become president, and he's proud at how the genre has matured.

"I think hip-hop had a role in making sure we elected a black president in America because we made it so that black people were in people's homes ... through our music and through our culture," the R&B crooner said Sunday night at the Hip-Hop Inaugural Ball.

"I think it made Barack Obama and more people like him possible, so I'm really thankful for hip-hop and the role it plays in society," Legend said.

Legend received the humanitarian award. Hip-hop pioneers MC Lyte and Doug E. Fresh were given lifetime achievement awards. Fresh even hit the stage, beat boxing while comedian-actor-singer Wayne Brady cooed Marvin Gaye's "What's Going On?" At one point, Brady even busted out his own rhymes.

Rapper Yo Yo earned a roar-



John Legend is seen at the Hip-Hop Inaugural Ball on Sunday, Jan. 20, 2013 in Washington.

ing cheer when she hit the stage to honor MC Lyte; Lil Mama also paid tribute to the "Ruffneck" rapper.

2 Chainz, who had a breakthrough year with his Grammy-nominated solo debut and multiple rap hits, earned the street soldier award for encouraging young voters as a spokesperson for the Hip-Hop Caucus' "Respect My Vote!" campaign.

"Doing my thing on the

charts is one thing, but to be getting honored on another avenue, it just feels like a blessing," he said in an interview. "I'm keeping my head leveled and staying humble."

Actress Rosario Dawson won the vanguard award for her work as chairman of the Voto Latino organization.

"It's time to step out of the shadows. It's time to not just be talked about by other people,

it's time to take the leadership ourselves and that first step of leadership is voting," Dawson said of the importance of the Latino vote.

Rappers Swizz Beatz and Meek Mill also earned honors at the event, attended by a few hundred hip-hop fans, including model Tyson Beckford, former NBA star Dikembe Mutumbo and Victor Cruz of the New York Giants. La La Anthony and Terrence J hosted the ball.

British singer Marsha Ambrosius also delivered a rousing performance, and playful jokes about Obama.

"I got a call from the president and he asked me to perform his favorite song," she said before singing the R&B jam "Hope She Cheats on You (With a Basketball Player)."

Then she sang "Butterflies," a song she co-wrote for Michael Jackson's 2001 "Invincible" album.

"This might have been his favorite," she said.

Michelle Obama wears Wu to the balls again

WASHINGTON (AP)—Michelle Obama made it a fashion tradition Monday night, wearing a custom-made Jason Wu gown to the inaugural balls. The ruby-colored dress was a follow-up to the white gown Wu made for her four years ago when she was new to Washington, the pomp and circumstance, and the fashion press.

She now emerged in velvet and chiffon as a bona fide trendsetter.

"I can't believe it. It's crazy," said Wu, reached at his Manhattan studio as he was trying to share the news with his parents in Taiwan. "To have done it once was already the experience of my life. To have a second time is tremendous."

President Barack Obama also struck a similar style chord to his first-term inaugural balls: He wore a white tie with his tuxedo.

The red halter dress was the only one Wu, who went from fashion insider to household name on this night in 2009, submitted for Mrs. Obama's consideration. He collaborated with jeweler Kimberly McDonald on the jeweled neckline. "For this occasion, it had to be real diamonds," said Wu.

He said he felt the dress showed how he has grown up as a designer—and how Mrs. Obama's style has evolved to be even more confident.

The first family headed out to inaugural festivities earlier on Monday with Mrs. Obama leading a very coordinated fashion parade in a navy-silk, checkered-patterned coat and dress by Thom Browne that were inspired by a menswear necktie.

The outfit was specifically designed for Mrs. Obama, but Browne said he wasn't 100 percent sure she was going to wear it until she came out with it on Inauguration Day. "I am proud and humbled," he said.

The rest of Mrs. Obama's Inauguration Day outfit included a belt from J. Crew, necklace by Cathy Waterman and a cardigan by Reed Krakoff, whose ensemble she also wore to yesterday's intimate, indoor swearing-in ceremony.

President Barack Obama wore a blue tie with his white shirt, dark suit and overcoat. Malia Obama had on a plum-colored J. Crew coat with the hemline of an electric-blue dress peeking out and a burgundy-colored scarf, and her younger sister Sasha had on a Kate Spade coat and dress in a similar purple shade.

"It is an honor that Sasha Obama chose to wear Kate Spade New York," said the company's creative director, Deborah Lloyd, in an email to the Associated Press. "She epitomizes the youthful optimism and colorful spirit of the brand. We are so proud to have been a part of this historic moment."

Jenna Lyons, creative director of J. Crew, said it was "a huge point of pride for all of us" to be a part of the day—as the brand was back in 2009 when the girls wore outfits by CrewCuts, its children's label.

"It's amazing to see the evolution of the family. I love the way Michelle looks. She looks beautiful in something so clean and tai-



This combo image shows first lady Michelle Obama as she arrives at the Inaugural Ball in Washington on Jan. 21, 2009, left, and Jan. 21, 2013, right. AP

lored. It's such an elegant choice," Lyons said, "and they all look so sophisticated! You can see how the girls have grown up in the four years, and they're still so alive and vibrant, but more sophisticated."

The vice president's wife, Jill Biden, wore a gray coat and dress by American designer Lela Rose.

Mrs. Obama has worn Browne's designs for other occasions, including a gray dress with black lace overlay to one of the presidential debates last fall, and she honored him last summer at the Smithsonian's Cooper-Hewitt National Design Awards for his contribution to fashion.

Browne made his name in modern—very modern—menswear, but he launched womenswear in 2011. He was in Paris on Monday, just finishing previews for his next menswear collection. The idea to use the tie fabric came to him because he was indeed designing these men's clothes at the same time, he explained.

"I wanted 'tailored' for her. For me, she stands for strength and confidence, and that's what I wanted to design for her," he said.

Simon Collins, dean of the school of fashion at Parsons The New School for Design in New York, said the Obamas dressed in their typical fashion: one that shows pride in

their appearance.

"They are a stylish couple and their children look fabulous. Too many people get dressed in the dark," he said. "They show it's good to dress up, take pride in how you look. ... It's a wonderful example for America and the rest of the world."

He also noted that the fashion industry is a driving force in the U.S. economy and that its lobby is a powerful one. They don't treat fashion frivolously, he observed.

The first lady "is so supportive of so many American designers," Browne noted.

But Collins said he was a bit surprised the public doesn't pay much attention to the president's wardrobe. He joked that Obama should perhaps try one of Browne's signature shrunken suits—the ones that show a man's ankles.

At the end of the Inaugural festivities, Mrs. Obama's outfit and accompanying accessories will go to the National Archives.

Billboard begins revamp of its magazine, site

NEW YORK (AP)—Billboard is undergoing a revamp with the help of its newest Icon.

The magazine will debut a redesign that includes new content on newsstands Tuesday with Prince on the cover. Revamps of its websites are coming later this week, including new chart features.

Prince grants the magazine a rare interview in the reboot issue and will be awarded the Icon Award on May 19 at the Billboard Music Awards. Country singer Tim McGraw has contributed an exclusive track for Billboard's website relaunch.

Along with content upgrades and expansions, the magazine, owned by Prometheus Global Media, will offer an iPad edition with playable charts.

The online charts will be upgraded to include the ability to share charts on Facebook or Twitter and to export them on streaming services Spotify or Rdio.

Student needs instruction on dealing with her anger

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



DEAR ABBY: I am 21 and I have an anger problem. Sometimes when my friends, roommates or my boyfriend do something that annoys me, I feel so mad that I can't concentrate on anything I have to get done.

I'm having that problem right now because one of my roommates was mean

to me tonight. I think I'm owed an apology, but I know I won't be getting one. I can't talk to her. I know if I do I'll just feel worse and we won't get anywhere. I can't even concentrate on writing my paper because I'm so ticked off!

Is it normal to get this mad? How can I control my anger better? Taking a deep breath and counting to 10 just makes me feel angrier. I'd feel better if I punched the wall, but the last time I did that I bruised my fist. Do you have any guidelines?

Dear Abby

CONSUMED BY ANGER IN HERNDON, VA.

DEAR CONSUMED BY ANGER: Anger is a normal emotion. Everybody has experienced it at one time or another. Most people have been trained to suppress anger from early childhood. But it's even more important to learn to express anger in ways that are constructive rather than destructive. Punching a wall falls into the latter category and can result in injury to you and possibly the wall, as you found out.

If it is channeled in the right direction, anger can be a positive emotion. Uncontrolled, or suppressed, it can be extremely harmful and even a killer. The challenge that everyone faces is how not to deny the feeling but to express the anger—or diffuse it—in ways that are productive.

In a situation like yours, saying out loud in a controlled manner that something has made you angry can be like releasing steam from a pressure cooker. It's certainly more productive than making a bullying gesture; hitting a wall with your fist implies that the next punch might land on the person who pushed your buttons. In my booklet "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It," I offer many suggestions that can help you manage your emotions in a more constructive way. It can be ordered by sending your name and mailing address, plus a check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds), to Dear Abby—Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price. Please understand how important it is that you learn to manage and channel your emotions more constructively than you currently do.

Step one in managing your anger is to recognize that the emotion is building before you lose control or become so angry that you can't concentrate on what is most important right now—and that is your academic studies. I know that if you learn to manage and control your anger, you will benefit greatly as you move forward in life. I have faith in you!

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: If a couple has been dating for a long time and are sexually active, do you think he has a right to have sex with her while she's sleeping? My sister and I disagree about this. I feel it's abuse. My sister isn't quite sure what to think.

CATHY IN KINGSTON, N.Y.

DEAR CATHY: If someone has sex with you without your consent, it isn't abuse. It is rape.

P.S. If the boyfriend in question is so inept at lovemaking that his partner snores right through it, then it seems to me that only the boyfriend is sexually "active."

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Radcliffe conjures new role as Allen Ginsberg

PARK CITY, Utah (AP)—Daniel Radcliffe doesn't mind hearing that schoolgirls were staking him out at Utah's Sundance Film Festival, hoping for a Harry Potter sighting.

In fact, Radcliffe is happy if his Potter fame draws interest for what he wants to do with the rest of his career, such as his bold turn as young gay poet Allen Ginsberg in the Sundance premiere "Kill Your Darlings."

Radcliffe goes nude for an explicit sex scene with another man, makes out with co-star Dane DeHaan and also appears in another sex scene with a library clerk.

As with his Broadway debut in "Equus," which also featured a nude scene, Radcliffe said his celebrity from the boy wizard franchise might lure fans who wouldn't have seen a film such as "Kill Your Darlings."

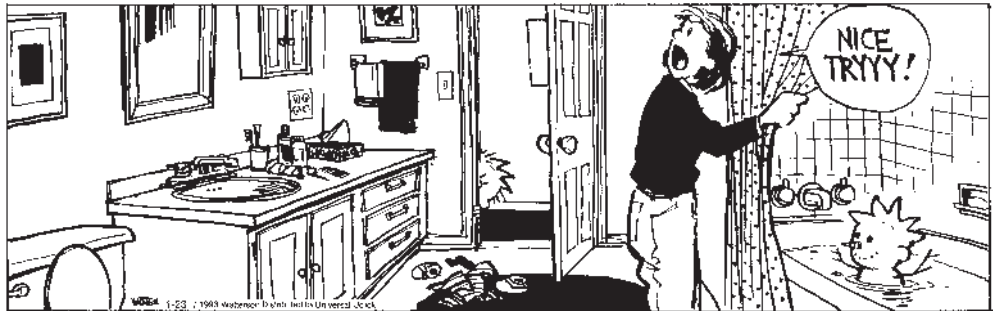


Radcliffe

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



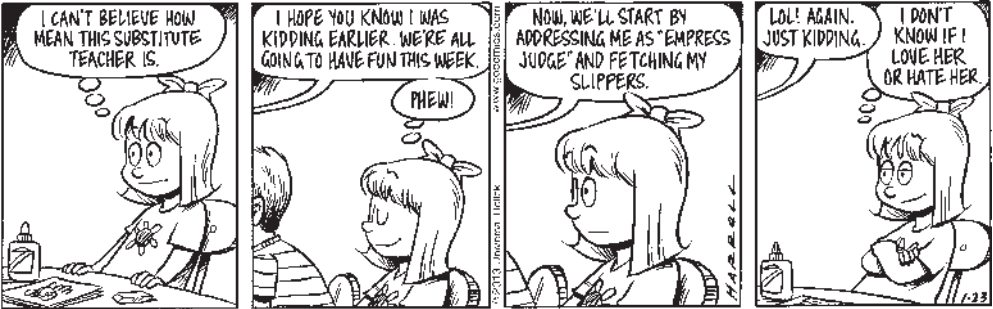
Garfield®

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The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Grand story

5 Recipe meas.

8 Slender smoke

12 Stereo precursor

13 Conger or moray

14 Opposed to

15 Sit on eggs

17 Highlander

18 Rib

19 Off the path

21 Thing

24 Golf prop

25 Related

28 Sandwich shop

30 Shock and —

33 Lair

34 Duck down

35 Vast expanse

36 Pouch

37 Male

38-Across

38 See

37-Across

39 Eggs

41 Unrivaled

43 Legend-ary

46 Adult insect

50 Sahara-like

51 On an angle

54 Rinky—

55 Use the micro-wave

56 Unrivaled

57 Long story

58 Flightless bird

59 Tackles' team-mates

2 Corn concoction

3 Erstwhile

4 Family member

5 With

6-Down, cups and saucers

6 See

5-Down

7 Entreaty

8 Haste result

9 Enlarge

10 Old portico

11 Compassion

16 Wager

20 Use a swizzle stick

22 Fix a manu-script

23 Olympics prize

25 Billboards

26 Mauna —

27 Arriving

29 Toy block name

31 Teensy

32 Listener

34 Jacob's brother

38 End

40 Bullshot ingredient

42 Zero

43 Craze

44 Operatic solo

45 Dimension

47 Any time now

48 Neuter

49 Rhyming tributes

52 "Platoon" setting, for short

53 Innards of a PC

Solution time: 21 mins.

BCARHIS SCOT
BRIEYIPFORE
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CAMPAGNBEND
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BONYCAMELLIA
EPEEAGO EARN
LEERLEG DYED

Yesterday's answer 1-23

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Tiffani Thiessen, 39; Mariska Hargitay, 49; Gail O'Grady, 50; Richard Dean Anderson, 63.

Happy Birthday: Aggressively seek what's required to reach a destination of choice. It's not about quantity, it's about quality and doing the right thing. Out of struggle and hard times can come the wisdom and fortitude to accomplish something great. Believe in what you know you are capable of achieving and you will make a difference that cannot be denied. Your numbers are 5, 7, 19, 22, 25, 34, 46.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Take part in events in which you feel you can offer something special. Your unusual way of looking at things will help shed light on a situation that has been impossible for someone you are close to. Rely on past experience. ****

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Give love, entertainment, travel and communication top priority. The more you interact with others and participate in interesting events, the more you will discover about yourself and the people you associate with. Disagreeing with someone will be a waste of time. ***

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Put effort into learning more about someone who interests you personally or professionally. Mixing business with pleasure will help you discover a unique way to utilize your skills with what someone else has to offer. Travel to a destination you find inspiring. ***

CANCER (June 21-July 22): A partnership will take an unexpected turn. Wager the pros and cons before hanging on to

someone or something that is of no use to you anymore. You have to cut your losses and make room for new beginnings. Love is highlighted. ***

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Tread carefully when dealing with domestic matters or older relatives who require your attention. You are likely to face an unfortunate situation if you don't take care of your responsibilities before you engage in your own entertainment. Help others first. ****

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Shake things up and spice up your life. You are in a high romantic cycle and should enjoy the company of someone you think is special, but don't feel you have to be extravagant to win someone's favor. Be yourself and have fun. **

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Put greater emphasis on things you enjoy doing. Take on a challenge if it will get you motivated to explore interests or finish projects. Don't let your emotions cost you a friendship or cause you to miss out on a good time. **

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Be careful what you say and who you share your information with or you may get caught in the middle of someone else's fight. Step back and view each personal situation you face from a distance. Focus on love and creativity. ***

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Put more thought into what you want to do professionally. A change that will help you fulfill a lifelong dream may be within reach if you gather information and do your best to network and connect with people who share your interest. ***

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Look, see and do. Don't sit back and let others take over. Your future depends on the contribution you make now. Open up to new ideas and make suggestions that will ensure practicality is injected into the plans you make. ***

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): What's the hold-up? Make personal changes that will surprise the people who care about you, and you will gain their support. Added respect will give you the inspiration to go the distance. A new beginning is within reach. ****

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Put more time and attention into moneymaking ideas. Focus on those you feel can contribute the most. Don't let an emotional incident that happened a long time ago stand in the way of an opportunity you get now. Make amends and make things happen. **

Birthday Baby: You are adventurous and difficult to mirror. You are versatile, intellectual and inspiring.

Eugenia's website—eugenialast.com, Eugenia's android app @ <http://bit.ly/exhoro> and join Eugenia on [twitter/facebook/linkedin](http://twitter.com/eugenialast).

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

9 5 8 1 4

4 8

5

4

7

8

3

1

4 2 1 3 8

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

4 3 1 2 7 6 8 5 9
2 9 8 3 4 5 7 1 6
6 5 7 9 1 8 2 4 3
7 1 3 4 6 2 5 9 8
9 8 6 7 5 3 4 2 1
5 4 2 8 9 1 6 3 7
8 7 9 5 3 4 1 6 2
1 2 5 6 8 9 3 7 4
3 6 4 1 2 7 9 8 5

Difficulty Level ★★ ★
1/23
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One (1) Sales Representative. College level at 5 years experience in marketing. Applicant must have excellent written & oral communication skills, with Valid Driver License and Police Clearance. Multilingual: Chinese, Korean, Japanese.

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Li Na advances to Australian Open semifinals



MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)—Li Na advanced to the Australian Open semifinals for the third time

in four years, bringing fourth-seeded Agnieszka Radwanska's 13-match winning streak to a shuddering halt.

Sixth-seeded Li, who lost the 2011 Australian Open final to Kim Clijsters only months before her Grand Slam breakthrough at the French Open, had a 7-5, 6-3 victory over Radwanska in Tuesday's first match on Rod Laver Arena.

"She's a tough player. I was feeling today against a wall," Li said. "She can hit everywhere, but without a mistake. I was feeling just very tough. You have to focus on every shot. Not every point, every shot."

Radwanska came into the Australian Open with titles this season at Auckland and Sydney, where she beat Li in the semifinals, but continued her poor conversation rate in Grand Slam quarterfinals. She's only advanced further once in seven tries—at Wimbledon last year, when she lost the final to Serena Williams.

Sixth-seeded Li will play the winner of Tuesday's later all-Russian quarterfinal between No. 2-ranked Maria Sharapova, who conceded only five games in her first four matches at Melbourne Park, and Ekaterina Makarova.

"At least now I'm in the semis," Li said. Sharapova, "has to play, so... Right? Now I can start now to enjoy my day. She has to fight,



China's Li Na hits a return to Poland's Agnieszka Radwanska during their quarterfinal match at the Australian Open tennis championship in Melbourne, Australia, Tuesday, Jan. 22, 2013.

yeah. So that's better."

The quarterfinals on the other half of the draw will feature American teenager Sloane Stephens against Serena Williams, who is aiming for a third consecutive major title, and defending champion Victoria Azarenka against two-time major winner Svetlana Kuznetsova.

Stephens has heard a lot of advice from Serena Williams. Pointers on her groundstrokes, and even on her grunts.

It's been mostly gentle encouragement, occasionally spiced with headline-making comments from Williams, who

has predicted the 19-year-old American will one day top the women's rankings.

As Stephens learned earlier this month, though, it's one thing to play with Williams, another to play against the 15-time Grand Slam champion.

With a comeback 6-1, 3-6, 7-5 win over Bojana Jovanovski on Monday, Stephens qualified for her first quarterfinal at a major tournament. Williams has already played at that level 34 times.

"It will be tough, obviously. It's quarters of a Grand Slam," Stephens said. "There won't be that, like, first time, 'Oh, my

God, I'm playing Serena.' That's kind of out of the window now. So that's good."

Williams and defending champion Victoria Azarenka advanced Monday, losing just four games between them against Russian rivals. Williams beat No. 14 Maria Kirilenko 6-2, 6-0, and Azarenka defeated Elena Vesnina 6-1, 6-1.

On the men's side, No. 2 Roger Federer and U.S. Open champion Andy Murray stayed on course for a semifinal in their half of the draw.

Federer won 6-4, 7-6 (4), 6-2 over big-serving Canadian Milos

Raonic, advancing to the quarterfinals at a Grand Slam for the 35th consecutive time, while Murray took advantage of Gilles Simon's fatigue for a 6-3, 6-1, 6-3 victory.

Federer will face 2008 Australian finalist Jo-Wilfried Tsonga, who beat friend and fellow Frenchman Richard Gasquet 6-4, 3-6, 6-3, 6-2.

Murray, who ended a 76-year drought for British men in Grand Slam tournaments with a win at the U.S. Open, will next play unseeded Frenchman Jeremy Chardy.

Chardy spent some time in the offseason hitting against Williams in Mauritius, and they're both saying it has helped his game.

Williams also played Stephens at the Brisbane International earlier this month, winning their quarterfinal 6-4, 6-3 en route to the title. That night, Stephens said, she "lost to the best player in the world."

But there were times in the match when the American teenager was cranky, particularly when Williams unleashed some loud and long "Come ons" to celebrate vital points.

Stephens, looking toward her coach at one point, said the celebrations were disrespectful.

Later, she said she was just joking.

Regardless, it was a lesson. The friendly Serena from the locker room is the ultimate competitor—she's on a 20-match winning roll and has lost only once since her first-round exit at the French Open.

"Obviously every match is a

learning experience," Stephens said. "But, I mean, you've just got to go and treat it like another match."

Well, not exactly a normal match, she said, but certainly no different from playing any of the other top three players.

"It just happens to be Serena. She's obviously one of the greatest players to ever play the game," Stephens said. "Without the titles, with the titles, it's still a tennis match. The court's the same size. You're still playing a regular person across the net."

Stephens and Williams ran across each other in the locker room Sunday.

"She told me I was too quiet on the court," Stephens said. "Then today I was thinking to myself, 'I'm really loud. Should I tone it down a little bit?'"

Williams thinks she's more like an elder stateswoman for the younger U.S. players than mentor for the likes of Stephens.

"I just feel like being the older one ... maybe some of the younger players look up to me," she said. "It's hard to be a real mentor when you're still in competition."

And as the elder stateswoman, Williams said, "I feel no responsibility" when it comes to playing Stephens.

"I doubt she has any expectations of me to be responsible for anything," she said. "I'm here to compete and do the best I can, as well as she is. And she's been doing really amazing. I'm really happy. I have a tough match, so we'll see."

Jim, John Harbaugh ready for rematch at Super Bowl



SANTA CLARA, Calif. (AP)—Jim and John Harbaugh have exchanged a handful of text

messages, and plan to leave it at that. No phone conversations necessary while the season's still going. No time for pleasantries, even for the friendly siblings.

There is work to be done to prepare for the Super Bowl, prepare for each other, prepare for a history-making day already being widely hyped as "Harbowl" or "Superbaugh" depending which nickname you prefer.

"It doesn't matter who the coach is, what relationship you have with the person on the other side," 49ers coach Jim Harbaugh said so matter-of-factly Monday afternoon.

Their parents sure aren't picking sides for the Feb. 3 matchup in New Orleans.

These days, the Harbaughs' longtime coaching father, Jack, stays away from game-planning chatter or strategy sessions with his Super Bowl-bound coaching sons. Baltimore's John Harbaugh and little brother Jim have been doing this long enough now to no longer need dad's input.

Yet, they still regularly seek

it. And, their father does offer one basic mantra: "Get ahead, stay ahead."

"Probably the greatest advice that I've ever been given and the only advice that I've ever found to be true in all of coaching, I think we mentioned it to both John and Jim ... the coaching advice is, 'Get ahead, stay ahead,'" Jack Harbaugh said.

"If I'm called upon, I'll repeat that same message."

His boys still call home regularly to check in with the man who turned both on to the coaching profession years ago, and the mother who has handled everything behind the scenes for decades in a highly competitive, sports-crazed family—with all the routine sports clichés to show for it.

The Harbaugh brothers will become the first siblings to square off from opposite sidelines when their teams play for the NFL championship at the Superdome.

Not that they're too keen on playing up the storyline that has no chance of going away as hard as they try.

"Well, I think it's a blessing and a curse," Jim Harbaugh said Monday. "A blessing because that is my brother's team. And, also, personally I played for the Ravens. Great respect for their

organization. ... The curse part would be the talk of two brothers playing in the Super Bowl and what that takes away from the players that are in the game. Every moment that you're talking about myself or John, that's less time that the players are going to be talked about."

Both men love history, just not the kind with them making it.

"I like reading a lot of history ... I guess it's pretty neat," John Harbaugh offered Monday. "But is it really going to be written about? It's not exactly like Churchill and Roosevelt or anything. It's pretty cool, but that's as far as it goes."

Nice try, guys. John watched the end of Jim's game from the field in Foxborough, Mass., as Baltimore warmed up for the AFC championship game. Jim called his sister's family from the team plane before takeoff after a win at Atlanta and asked how his big brother's team was doing against New England.

The improbable Super Bowl features a set of brothers known around the NFL as fierce competitors unafraid to make a bold move during the season. Unafraid to upset anyone who stands in their way.

In fact, each one made a major change midseason to get this

far—John fired his offensive coordinator, while Jim boosted his offense with a quarterback switch from Alex Smith to Colin Kaepernick.

Leading up to Sunday's games, parents Jack and Jackie said they would wait to decide whether to travel to New Orleans if both teams advanced or stick to what has been working so well—watching from the comfort of their couch in Mequon, Wis.

"We enjoy it very much. We get down in our basement, turn on the television and just have a fantastic day watching outstanding football," Jack said last week. "We share our misery with no one but ourselves. Not only the misery, but the ups and downs, the ins and outs of an outstanding professional game."

And, no, the Harbaughs weren't looking ahead to a potential big trip to the Big Easy.

Jack insists his wife is quick to pull out that old sports cliché: "It's one game at a time. I think it's very appropriate," he said.

Jim figures they won't possibly miss this history-making game.

"I think they'll be there," he said with a smile.

The brothers, separated in age by 15 months, have taken different paths to football's biggest stage—years after their intense games of knee football

at the family home. They tried to beat each other at cards, or whatever other game it was at the time. Sometimes, they tried to beat each other up. Sister, Joani Crean, often got in on the fun, too.

The 49-year-old Jim never reached a Super Bowl, falling a last-gasp pass short during a 15-year NFL career as a quarterback. The 50-year-old John never played in the NFL.

Still, both will tell you, "Who's got it better than us? No-body!"—one catchphrase they got from their dad.

"We can't put into words what it means to see John and Jim achieve this incredible milestone," their brother-in-law, Indiana basketball coach Tom Crean, said on Twitter. "We talked to Jim (before) his team plane left. All he wanted to know was how was John doing? How were they playing? One incredible family who puts the care, well-being and love for each other at the forefront like most families do. Again, we are very proud of them. Going to be exciting to watch it unfold."

John worked his way up from the bottom of the coaching ranks, while Jim was the star college quarterback at Michigan, a first-round draft pick and eventual Pro Bowler who made coaching his

career once he retired.

John already has the one-up, while Jim's team is the early favorite. John's Ravens beat the 49ers 16-6 on Thanksgiving night 2011, in Jim's rookie season as an NFL coach—though both know that means nothing now.

"I just want everybody to know, that was a four-day deal and every story has been told," John said. "We're not that interesting. There's nothing more to learn. The tape across the middle of the room story, OK, you got it? It's OK. It was just like any other family, really. I really hope the focus is not so much on that. We get it, it's really cool and it's exciting and all that."

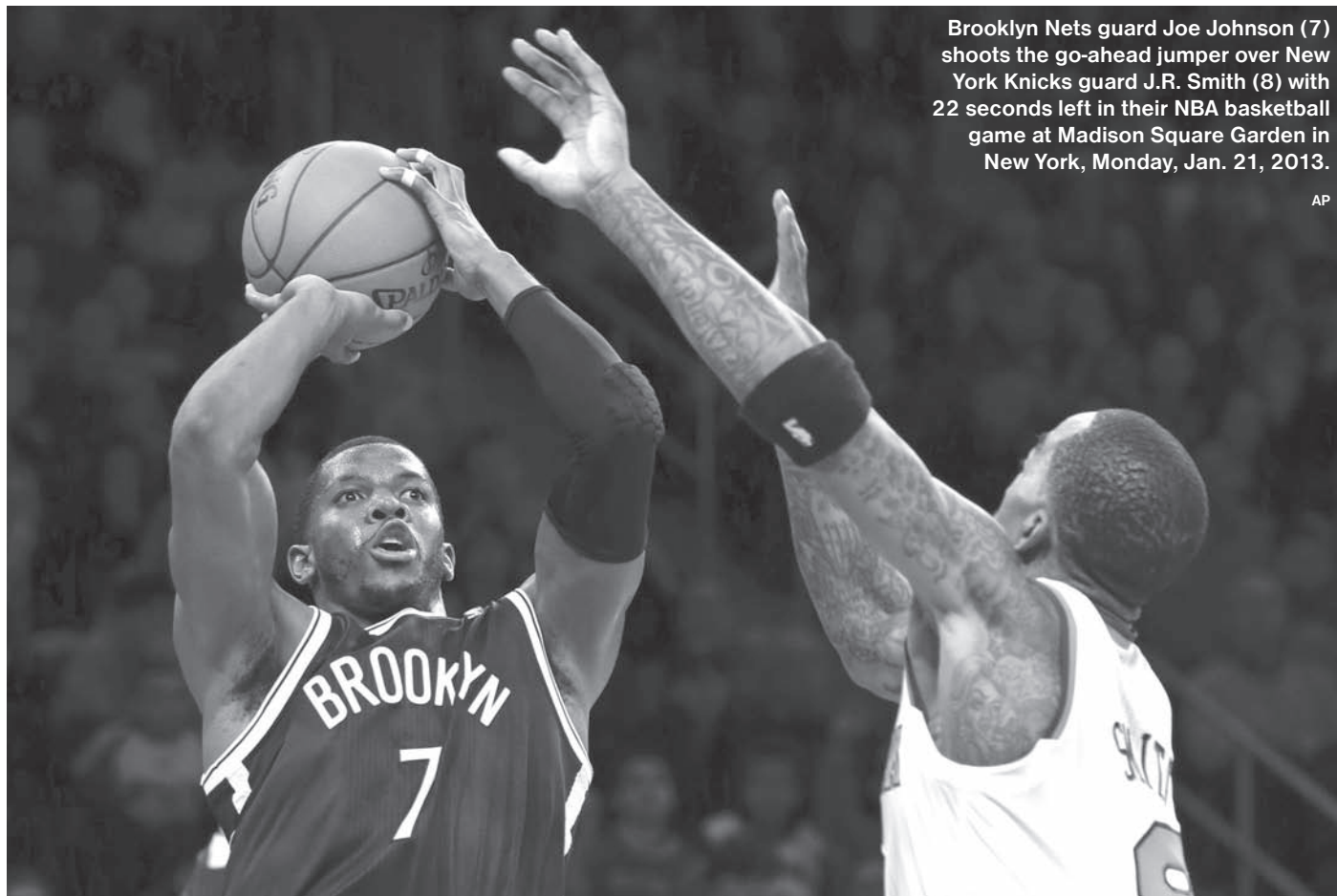
Said Jim, "Completely new business."

In spite of his efforts to avoid the topic, Jim did take the opportunity to express how proud he is of John.

"He's a great football coach, a real grasp of all phases—offense, defense, special teams. I think he could coordinate at least two of those phases and do it as well as anyone in the league," Jim said. "I've got half the amount of coaching experience he does. Again, it's not about us. I keep coming back to that. I'm really proud of my brother. I love him. That's the blessing part, that this is happening to him."

And, fittingly for the big brother, John feels the exact same way.

Nets beat Knicks to split four-game series



Brooklyn Nets guard Joe Johnson (7) shoots the go-ahead jumper over New York Knicks guard J.R. Smith (8) with 22 seconds left in their NBA basketball game at Madison Square Garden in New York, Monday, Jan. 21, 2013.

AP

NEW YORK (AP)—Joe Johnson made the go-ahead jumper with 22 seconds left and scored 25 points, leading the Brooklyn Nets to an 88-85 over the New York Knicks on Monday and a split of the four-game series between the city rivals.

Deron Williams added 14 points and 12 assists for the Nets, who cut the Knicks' Atlantic Division lead to one game. Brook Lopez had 14 points and 11 rebounds, and Kris Humphries came off the bench for 11 points and 13 boards.

Carmelo Anthony had 29 points and seven assists for the Knicks, but missed all six shots in the fourth quarter and finished 11 of 29 for the game. J.R. Smith scored 16 points and Amare Stoudemire 15.

The Nets survived a pair of lengthy droughts in the second half but got 10 points in the final period from Johnson, who used to play for Knicks coach Mike Woodson in Atlanta and has become the player Brooklyn turns to for big shots in the clutch.

Wizards 98, Trail Blazers 95

In Portland, Ore., Jordan Crawford hit a 3-pointer at the buzzer and Washington dogpiled on the court to celebrate the win.

Nicolas Batum had 12 points, 10 rebounds and 11 assists for his first career triple-double, but Portland still lost its season-high sixth straight.

Crawford's fadeaway and a corner 3-pointer gave the Wizards an 82-75 lead, their largest to that point, with just more than 7 minutes left in the game.

Rookie Damian Lillard's dunk pulled the Blazers to 91-90 with 2:21 left. Former Blazer Martell Webster and John Wall answered with consecutive dunks, but Lillard added a layup and Wesley Matthews hit a

3-pointer to tie it with 7.9 seconds left.

Crawford's game winner was reviewed but it didn't stop the Wizards' celebration.

Pacers 82, Grizzlies 81

In Memphis, Tenn., George Hill scored 13 points, including a clinching free throw with 1.4 seconds remaining to give Indiana a victory over Memphis in the annual Martin Luther King Day game.

On the ensuing inbound, Rudy Gay's 24-footer over Paul George banked in, but it came after the buzzer—a ruling confirmed by officials after a review—giving the Pacers their second straight win and ninth in the past 11.

David West scored 14 points for the Central Division-leading Pacers, while George finished with 12 points, 10 rebounds and nine assists. Roy Hibbert scored 10 for Indiana.

Warriors 106, Clippers 99

In Oakland, Calif., Jarrett Jack had 18 points and 10 assists, Stephen Curry made four 3-pointers in the fourth quarter and Golden State rallied from seven points down in the final 11 minutes.

Curry finished with 28 points, Klay Thompson added 18 and David Lee had 12 points and 11 rebounds for the Warriors, who have beaten the Pacific Division-leading Clippers three out of the four games between the two teams this season.

There were five lead changes in the fourth quarter, but Los Angeles managed only two baskets over the final 3:40 while Golden State closed on a 14-4 run.

Blake Griffin had 26 points and 13 rebounds for the Clippers. Jamal Crawford added 24 points off the bench.

Bulls 95, Lakers 83

In Chicago, Kirk Hinrich scored 22 points, Marco Belinelli added 15 points, and the Bulls pulled away with an 18-4 run that broke a 75-75 tie and sent Los Angeles to its ninth loss in 11 games.

Belinelli came up big in the closing minutes, scoring eight points during the decisive run. He started it by hitting two free throws after getting fouled by Dwight Howard with 6:54 left in the game and wrapped two 3-pointers around a layup by Los Angeles' Earl Clark, making it 89-79 with 2:27 remaining.

The Lakers have now dropped six straight on the road, and this one came after coach Mike D'Antoni shook up the lineup. He moved forward Pau Gasol to a reserve role and replaced him with Clark, but the slide continued on a night when Kobe Bryant and Howard were mostly nonfactors.

Rockets 100, Bobcats 94

In Charlotte, N.C., James Harden scored 29 points and hit all 10 of his free throws in the fourth quarter and Houston rallied to snap a seven-game losing streak.

Kemba Walker scored a career-high 35 points for the Bobcats, who set a franchise record with their 15th straight loss at home. The longest home skid in NBA history is 19 straight by Dallas during the 1993-94 season.

Harden made just 5 of 20 shots, but went 19 of 21 on free throws. He was perfect from the line when the Rockets overcame a seven-point deficit in the final period.

Marcus Morris had 21 points for the Rockets. Carlos Delfino scored 16, including a 3-pointer from the right corner that put Houston ahead for good at 96-

94 with 1:54 left.

Hornets 114, Kings 105

In New Orleans, Ryan Anderson scored 27 points and New Orleans survived a second half without Anthony Davis in a victory over Sacramento.

Greivis Vasquez added 19 points and Eric Gordon had 16 points for the Hornets, who have won three of four.

DeMarcus Cousins led the Kings with 29 points and 13 rebounds. Isaiah Thomas scored 20 points, and Tyreke Evans had 16 on the day the NBA announced the team's owners had a deal to potentially move the franchise to Seattle.

Hawks 104, Timberwolves 96

In Atlanta, Al Horford scored a season-high 28 points, Jan-nero Pargo had 16 and Atlanta snapped a two-game slide with a victory over Minnesota.

Derrick Williams finished with 17 points and Jose Barea had 14 for Minnesota, which lost for the sixth time in seven games after blowing an 18-point lead in the second quarter.

Spurs 90, 76ers 85

In Philadelphia, Tim Duncan had 24 points and 17 rebounds and Tony Parker scored 20 points to lead San Antonio to its fifth straight win.

The Spurs blew a 17-point lead in the first half before rallying late in the fourth to win again without guard Manu Ginobili. Ginobili is still out with a strained left hamstring.

Evan Turner led Philadelphia with 18 points and 12 rebounds. The Sixers lost for the seventh time in nine games. Andrew Bynum, out all season with knee injured knees, said before the game he remained on target to return around the All-Star break.

The Sixers could use him.

Without their best player, they've slumped to seven games under .500.

Without Ginobili for the

fourth straight game, the Spurs got clutch baskets down the stretch to win their NBA-high 15th road game.

Cavs' Varejao done for season with blood clot

CLEVELAND (AP)—Anderson Varejao's season rapidly spiraled from a probable All-Star appearance to over.

The Cavaliers' hustling center, who led the NBA in rebounding before he went down last month with what appeared to be nothing more than a bruised knee, remained hospitalized Monday with a blood clot in his lower right lung, a health scare that will force him to miss the rest of this season.

Varejao, who underwent surgery on a torn leg muscle on Jan. 10, has been at The Cleveland Clinic since last Thursday. The Cavs said he will likely remain in the hospital for several more days as he receives treatment. Varejao is expected to make a full recovery, but he will remain on blood thinning medications for at least three months, the team said Monday. The loss of the 6-foot-11 Varejao is a crushing blow to the young Cavs, who are just 10-32.

"Losing him already was bad enough for us," star point guard Kyrie Irving said. "The news got worse today. We wish him the best. We're all going to be there for him morale-wise, just try to be there for him as best as we can as teammates. That's all we can do right now."

Despite Varejao being admitted to the hospital four days ago, the Cavs did not reveal he was still there until shortly before Monday's workout at their training facility.

Varejao was having an All-Star-caliber season before he injured his leg on Dec. 18 against Toronto. Team doctors initially diagnosed the injury as a bruise and expected Varejao to make a quick recovery. However, tests revealed an uncommon split in his quadriceps muscle which required an operation. Varejao was expected to be out eight weeks before he developed the blood clot following the surgery.

General manager Chris Grant said the team is "fairly confident" the clot was not a reaction from surgery.

This is the third straight season Varejao has missed extended time with injuries. The Brazilian sat out 41 games last season with a broken wrist, and he was sidelined for 51 games in 2011 after tearing a tendon in his ankle while running after practice.

"We're just feeling bad for Andy," Cavs coach Byron Scott said following practice. "I think the world of Andy, especially with the way he plays.

My heart just goes out to him. He's had some bad luck in the last three years. I'm sure it's devastating to him. I feel real bad for him."

Varejao was averaging 14.4 rebounds and 14.1 points in 25 games before he got hurt. There wasn't a center in the Eastern Conference playing better than the fun-loving 30-year-old, who has developed into much more than a competent reserve—when he's healthy.

If he had been able to keep playing, there's little doubt Varejao, acquired by Cleveland in 2004 in a trade with Orlando, would have been named an All-Star reserve this week.

Grant pointed out that Varejao's injuries have been unrelated.

"They've all really been freak things," he said. "He's frustrated. We're frustrated for him and with him. We would love to have him out there, particularly the type of year he was having. He's really come into his own as a leader on the court, so it's difficult. But at the same time we believe in him as a guy, we know what he can do. He's played in a lot of big games for us, into the Finals. We'll continue to support him."

Cleveland, which has one of the league's youngest rosters, just completed a 1-4 road trip. The Cavs will host Boston on Tuesday and play 10 of their next 12 games at home.

Varejao's injury has allowed Scott to give extra playing time to second-year forward Tristan Thompson and rookie Tyler Zeller. The Cavs, though, have been plagued by wild inconsistency, especially down the stretch in games they've let slip away.

"We've made strides in the right direction, but we just have to be more consistent game-to-game," said Irving, who is averaging 23.1 points, 5.7 assists and 3.6 rebounds per game. "I say it all the time, we've proven we can play with the best in the league, we just have to put two halves together. We're still figuring that out."

They'll have to do it without Varejao, their never-stopping big man who has managed to stay positive despite his latest medical setback.

"His spirits are up," said Grant. "He's frustrated. He wants to play; he wants to be with his teammates on the court. But he's such a good guy. Every time you see him he's still got that big smile."

Farewell golf tourney, Pacific Games tryout

 Veteran golfer Jess Wabol is organizing a farewell tournament for former CNMI Team member Adam Hardwicke and a series of qualifying competitions for the 2012 Pacific Games.

Wabol said the send-off tournament for Hardwicke is set for this Sunday at Coral Ocean Point. Tee off will be at 12pm and a potluck party will follow at Finasisu. Refauwasch Golfers Association members and other Saipan

players who competed with and against Hardwicke are encouraged to join the farewell tournament. Hardwicke, who donned the CNMI colors in the 2011 Pacific Games in New Caledonia, is leaving Saipan for Malaysia after

serving at the Public Defenders Office for seven years. In related golf news, Wabol said tryouts for the CNMI Team that will compete in the 2015 Pacific Games in Papua New Guinea will start next month.

He said they have to kick off the selection process early to get as many players for pool. Wabol added they are looking for young golfers to lead the CNMI Team and fundraising efforts will also start early, as it will be tough to

rely on the government for funding for the PNG trip. For more information about the farewell tournament and the Pacific Games qualifier, contact Wabol at 228-1129. *(Saipan Tribune)*

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The Worcester native had his first tournament for 2013 early this month via the Total Sports Challenge, in Kleinmond, South Africa and finished second in his age group behind Stuart Marais. Hugo completed the 12-kilometer surf ski, 1.5km swim, 50km road bike, 13km road run, 13km canoe paddle, 20km mountain bike, and 9km beach run legs of the grueling race in 6:18:28, more than five minutes behind Marais' 5:13:22. Weiss also competed in the Total Sports Challenge in Magaliesberg and was the first finisher in the individual race and ruled the men's division. He timed in at 4:02:26 in the

road bike, road run, MTB bike, and beach run legs to place fourth overall behind team event Top 3 finishers Contego men (3:41:44), Team Contego Pro (3:43:20) and ATC Men's (3:46:09). Besides his victory at the start of the year, Weiss' impressive resume also includes a world championship title in the 2012 ITU U23 Cross Triathlon in April in Alabama. Also last year, he finished first in the 20 to 24 age group of the Top 25 overall Specsavers Ironman 70.3, second in Pro Male Midlands Ultra (Half Ironman) and Pro Male ITU Cross Triathlon SA Championships, third in Pro Male Bela Bela 5150 (Olympic Distance Triathlon, seventh in Pro Male XTERRA USA South East Championships

Richmond, USA, and eighth in the Pro Male XTERRA SA Championships Grabouw. Then in 2011, he made it to the Top 3 of the 20 to 24 age group of both the ITU Cross Triathlon World Championships in Spain (April) and Beijing, China (August). Not to be outdone is Downie, who is the current Scottish and European Under 23 Cross Triathlon champion and started competing in triathlon events in 2010. He has won various tournaments in Scotland and has been to different competitions in the U.K., Germany, France, and the Czech Republic. Last year, the 21-year-old triathlete placed first in Durty Triathlon-Scott X-Tri Series Round 2, Glentress Duathlon, Callander Hill Race, and Adidas Terrex Adventure Race

Prologue Team. He was then a runner-up in the 2012 Scottish Duathlon Championship, Durty Triathlon-Scott X-Tri Series Round 2, and Callander Crags Hill Race, and ranked 19th and 26th overall in the XTERRA Germany and Czech Republic, respectively. Downie and company are expected to put up a strong fight against defending champion Ben Allen of Australia and former XTERRA Saipan winners Sam Gardner of United Kingdom and Olivier Marceau of France. Meanwhile, besides the three pros, three more visiting triathletes will debut in XTERRA Saipan this year. Froilan and Nakano Rivera of Hawaii and New Caledonia's Dave Exposito are coming over to join the

age group competitions. Early bird registration for XTERRA Saipan and Tagaman Triathlon are now open and sign up can be made online via the Saipan Sportfest web-

site www.saipansports.com. For more information, contact Sakovich at swimsak@yahoo.com or Brad Ruzala at brad-inthesand96950@yahoo.com. *(Saipan Tribune)*

SBA

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and ninth placers Jorge Soledad and Paul Pangelinan took home a dinner buffet certificate for two at Isla Café and \$25 worth of D&Q gift certificate, respectively. Edward Baluyan, Raul Dumapit, Jerry Kaneshi, Lee Yong Woon, Tony Yarobwemal, and Ronal Batac each received a lunch buffet certificate for one

at Isla Café. For the Queen of the Lanes competition, all 11 bowlers were given prizes with champion Diane Camacho getting the biggest slice in the prize pie with her \$300. Runner-up Yho Villavicencio and Tess Fabie pocketed \$150 and \$100, respectively and the Top 3 finishers also received trophies. Fourth placer Carol McKenzie earned \$70, while Elena Soll was given \$40. Gift certificates

from D&Q, Cosmos, and Isla Café were then distributed to qualifiers Cora Muna, Gloria Omechelang, Carrie Camacho, Gigi Zapanta, Lala Taitano, and Diane Chong. In the Fiji Water Prince of the Lanes, the \$160 top purse went to champion M.J. Aldan, while runners-up Ryan Batac and Marcel McKenzie settled for \$80 and \$40, respectively. Meanwhile, SBA also handed out special prizes to the youth,

male, and female bowlers who joined the most tournaments in 2012. The husband-and-wife tandem of Percy and Gloria Omechelang took home an overnight stay for two with breakfast certificate at Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan for participating in the 20 and 19 competitions, respectively. Ryan Batac prevailed in the youth division and also won an overnight stay certificate at Kanoa Resort for playing in all 12 monthly contests.

RAY

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was as though somebody threw a switch. "Say it again," Lewis looked up and said, just above a whisper. Suggs complied. "Again!" Lewis hissed, a little louder this time, and began clapping his hands over his head in accompaniment. Then he rubbed his eyes—as if checking to make sure he wasn't just imagining the scene. And just like that, the eyeblack that began the night covering his cheekbones now adorned his chin like a beard. "We're built a certain way and we've got each other's backs, through it all," Lewis said. He savored the moment, remembering how the Ravens left New England a year ago, eliminated in this same AFC championship game after former kicker Billy Cundiff's 32-yard field goal attempt hooked wide left. "Last year when we walked up out of here, I told them, I said, 'We'll be back. Don't hold your heads down because we've got something to finish.'"

That won't be for two more weeks, at the Super Bowl against the 49ers in New Or-

leans, but win or lose, Lewis will be finished. A tough guy playing a position where toughness is a given, he defied the odds by lasting 17 seasons and all of them with the same club that drafted him. Lewis doesn't dominate games the way he used to, crushing running backs and making every tackle sound like it does on a video game. Yet the numbers don't lie, and just as he has throughout Baltimore's improbable run, Lewis led the Ravens in solo tackles and assists, 14 combined on this night. At 37, he's also been on the field for more snaps than any other defender. Yet Lewis' leadership is more than his stats, more than his awkward dance out of the tunnel, more than the hoarse pregame speeches he gives in the last huddle before leading his teammates onto the field. "There's so many things you can say about Ray, but the thing you don't see just watching the games is how much work he puts in," backup linebacker Paul Kruger said. "And not just his own business. He wants the kickers to be pros in how they go about their business in practice, the linemen, the skill guys - it doesn't matter to Ray. "A lot of guys outside this

locker room have been talking about how we're all playing for Ray, and that's true," he continued. "But playing for Ray means playing for yourself, too, and playing for the team, because that's what he cares about most. "So yeah," Kruger said. "You could say we're playing for Ray. But what that means to us is that nobody wants to be the guy who lets him down." That wasn't a problem Sunday night, at least not once the Ravens took the Patriots' measure. After nosing in front 13-7 by halftime, Baltimore's defense stiffened and held New England scoreless the rest of the way. "Second half, baby, was 21-0!" Suggs screamed in the next locker over from Lewis. "My wife told me, baby, quit watching tape and come to bed, you're going to win by 10. And she was only off by five points!" Lewis looked over at his teammate and covered his mouth to stop from laughing out loud. Though it wouldn't hurt, Lewis doesn't need another Super Bowl, let alone another Pro Bowl, to secure his legacy. At least not the football portion of it. Lewis won the NFL's biggest prize once already, in 2000, and was named MVP in that game to boot. He's been picked for the

Pro Bowl 13 times. But a trip back to the big game will carry echoes of his last trip there, a year after Lewis was charged in a double murder after a Super Bowl party at an Atlanta nightclub a year earlier. Under an agreement with prosecutors, he pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor charge of obstruction of justice and testified against his two former co-defendants. Neither was convicted, and Lewis eventually reached undisclosed cash settlements with the victims' families. Lewis worked hard to rebuild his reputation, eventually working his way back into the graces of the NFL. Humbled, he volunteered to speak at rookie orientation sessions and slowly won back the kind of respect that had nothing to do with his play on the field. "Ray's a guy that's turned everything over," coach John Harbaugh said. "He's surrendered everything and he's become the man that he is to this day. He's a different man than he was when he was 22 or 15 or whatever. I think everybody sees that right now. I think it's a great thing for kids to see. It's a great thing for fathers to see. It's a great thing for athletes to see. "It's," Harbaugh said, "a very special deal."

NEW

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(1:02:03.67), Carol Lyn Pierce (1:11:42.01), and Brian Morris (1:15:45.49) rounded out the Mighty finishers. In the Tweeners race, Ed Ewing timed in at 36:39 to beat Rachel Zuercher (43:53), Taiga Sato and Dawn Hammermeister (43:56.67), Lennosuke Susuki (44:30), Suzy Kindel (49:06), Daniel Calvo (53:19), Joshua Berger (53:38), Manny Sitchon (53:43), Paul Plunkett (53:50), Eden Schwartz (55:51), and Jennifer Kogre (1:00:17). In the Meek category, adult swimmer Nicky Nichols (14:21) topped SSC mainstays

Rinto Takahashi (17:02) and siblings Michail and Michael Villagomez, who had a down-to-the-wire finish, posting 17:20 and 17:21. Eleven others completed last year's shortest race. The list include Akira Kodukora (17:31), Conatsu Kaga (17:58), Roxie Lamar (18:49), Jon Ulrich (19:06), John Douglas (19:07.63), Quynchi Nguyen (19:07.66), Coume Kaga (19:41.76), Karri Fisher (19:49), Paul Viator (20:00), Miku Torres (20:37), R.J. Pierce (20:42.71), and Mamiko Oshima-Berger (20:42.73). For more information about this weekend's Meek & Mighty, send email to saipanswimclub@gmail.com. *(Saipan Tribune)*

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES									
NBA STANDINGS									
EASTERN CONFERENCE									
Atlantic Division									
	W	L	Pct	GB					
New York	25	14	.641	—	Westbrook, OKC	41	327	232	942 23.0
Brooklyn	25	16	.610	1	Aldridge, POR	38	314	154	782 20.6
Boston	20	20	.500	5½	Curry, GOL	37	263	116	757 20.5
Philadelphia	17	24	.415	9	Wade, MIA	34	257	156	684 20.1
Toronto	15	26	.366	11	Lee, GOL	38	313	125	751 19.8
Southeast Division									
Miami	26	12	.684	—	Parker, SAN	41	320	146	806 19.7
Atlanta	23	18	.561	4½	Holiday, PHL	36	277	100	697 19.4
Orlando	14	26	.350	13	Pierce, BOS	40	258	170	761 19.0
Charlotte	10	31	.244	17½	Ellis, MIL	39	276	148	732 18.8
Washington	9	30	.231	17½	Jennings, MIL	39	261	127	724 18.6
Central Division									
Indiana	26	16	.619	—	Lillard, POR	40	258	123	731 18.3
Chicago	24	16	.600	1	Mayo, DAL	42	269	136	763 18.2
Milwaukee	21	18	.538	3½	Cousins, SAC	36	237	167	642 17.8
Detroit	15	25	.375	10	Griffin, LAC	41	293	140	729 17.8
Cleveland	10	32	.238	16	Gay, MEM	37	253	110	650 17.6
WESTERN CONFERENCE									
Southwest Division									
San Antonio	33	11	.750	—	FG Percentage				
Memphis	26	14	.650	5		FG	FGA	PCT	
Houston	22	21	.512	10½	Chandler, NYK	173	257	.673	
Dallas	18	24	.429	14	Splitter, SAN	161	270	.596	
New Orleans	14	27	.341	17½	Jordan, LAC	157	265	.592	
Northwest Division									
Oklahoma City	32	9	.780	—	Howard, LAL	229	392	.584	
Denver	25	18	.581	8	Ibaka, OKC	231	412	.561	
Utah	22	19	.537	10	Lopez, NOR	193	349	.553	
Portland	20	21	.488	12	Davis, TOR	163	296	.551	
Minnesota	17	21	.447	13½	James, MIA	387	703	.550	
Pacific Division									
L.A. Clippers	32	10	.762	—	McGee, DEN	176	320	.550	
Golden State	25	15	.625	6	Faried, DEN	215	394	.546	
L.A. Lakers	17	24	.415	14½	Rebounds				
Sacramento	16	26	.381	16		G	OFF	DEF	TOT
Phoenix	13	28	.317	18½	Howard, LAL	37	133	325	458 12.4
NBA LEADERS									
Scoring									
	G	FG	FT	PTS	AVG				
Bryant, LAL	40	414	265	1183	29.6	Randolph, MEM	37	165	270 435 11.8
Durant, OKC	41	391	349	1209	29.5	Vucevic, ORL	40	134	310 444 11.1
Anthony, NYK	31	309	200	904	29.2	Asik, HOU	42	134	329 463 11.0
James, MIA	38	387	177	1001	26.3	Chandler, NYK	38	171	247 418 11.0
Harden, HOU	41	319	342	1059	25.8	Hickson, POR	39	151	278 429 11.0
Assists									
	G	AST	AVG						
Rondo, BOS	35	390	11.1	Lee, GOL	38	107	302	409 10.8	
Paul, LAC	38	369	9.7	Noah, CHI	38	142	262	404 10.6	
Vasquez, NOR	40	365	9.1	Cousins, SAC	36	124	252	376 10.4	
Holiday, PHL	36	323	9.0	Boozer, CHI	39	95	299	394 10.1	
Westbrook, OKC	41	340	8.3	BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS					
Williams, Bro	39	299	7.7						
Calderon, TOR	41	312	7.6						
Parker, SAN	41	299	7.3						
Nelson, ORL	31	222	7.2						
James, MIA	38	265	7.0						

NMISF Swim Meet



Tsunami Saipan's Kensuke Kimura, left, and Kaito Yanai compete in the 50m breaststroke race in the NMISF Swim Meet held on Jan. 12 at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool.



Saipan Swim Club's Kento Akimaru gasps for air during the 50m breaststroke race.



Saipan Swim Club's Victoria Chentsova swims in the 200m freestyle event.



Swimmers wait for the start of the race.



Swimmers plunge into the pool.



A swimmer nears completion of the 100m freestyle race.



Swimmers splash water to their bodies while waiting for the start of the race.



Tsunami Saipan's Miku Tammy, ahead, and Angel Marie Tan compete in the 200m backstroke swim.



Volunteers assist a young swimmer at the starting block.



Volunteer timers watch the 50m freestyle race.

Li Na advances to Australian Open semifinals

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Saipan Tribune Sports

Nets beat Knicks to split four-game series

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

More competitive field in XTERRA



Downie



Hugo



Weiss

Three pros will debut in the 2013 XTERRA Saipan Championships, making this year's field tougher than the previous ones.



Bill Sakovich, former president of XTERRA Saipan organizer Taga, Inc., in an email sent to the CNMI triathlon community said this March's race looks to be even more competitive than the previous years with two pros from

South Africa and one from Scotland joining the early list of triathletes who committed to join XTERRA Tour's Crown Jewel.

Scheduled to debut in the March 9 event are South Africa's Dan Hugo and Bradley Weiss and Scotland's Rory Downie, who are veterans of XTERRA World Series and have been to various triathlon tournaments in Europe and the U.S.

Hugo has been a regular participant in XTERRA Tour since 2004 and finished runner-up in the 2011 XTERRA World. Last year, the 28-year-old South African placed third in the XTERRA South Africa and second in XTERRA Buffelspoort (Johannesburg). In 2011, he was also a runner-up in XTERRA USA.

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SBA/Budweiser champions feted

Winners in Saipan Bowling Association's 2012 season-ending roll-offs were awarded trophies and cash prizes last Sunday at the Shirley's Coffee Shop in Susupe.

Simon Manacop received a championship trophy, one case of Budweiser, and \$700 cash for topping the SBA/Budweiser King of the Lanes Tournament held on Jan. 13 at the Capital Bowling Center. Manacop prevailed in the stepladder finals against siblings Ruselle and Raymond Zapanta to defend the King of the Lanes title which he incidentally won against the Za-



Winners in the SBA/Budweiser 2012 season-ending tournament pose with their trophies during the awards ceremony held last Sunday at the Shirley's Coffee Shop in Susupe.

panta brothers in 2011. Ruselle settled for a trophy and \$350, while Raymond also took home a trophy and \$200.

Besides the Top 3 finishes in the King of the Lanes, SBA officials Ross and Gigi Zapanta also handed prizes to the 11 other bowlers who joined the association's year-end competition. Fourth finisher Raphael Zapanta pocketed \$100 and a dinner certificate for two at World Café, while No. 5 Kim Jae Yong and Robert Talavera were awarded \$70 and \$40, respectively, plus lunch buffet certificate for two at Isla Café.

Percy Omechelang got \$40 worth of Cosmos certificate for placing seventh, while eighth

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New division for Meek & Mighty Swim

A new category has been added to the Saipan Swim Club's 8th Annual Meek & Mighty Ocean Swim that will be held this Saturday in the waters of the Pacific Islands Club in San Antonio.

The host club is introducing the "Minnow" division, which is a short and shallow course for young swimmers and has a distance of about 200 meters. SSC coach Gary Guzman will be at the course during the swim, serving as a buoy at the turnaround point, while parents are allowed to swim with their children. Participants in the "Minnow" event and the three other categories may use fins, snorkel, buoy, or paddles, but will not qualify for prizes in the divisions.

This weekend's swim will be at the XTERRA Tagaman course with swimmers allowed to join the three regular distances—the 1K race (Meek), 3K (Tweeners), and 5K (Mighty).

Entry fee is only \$10 and it covers a one-day pass to PIC's water park. An adult must accompany swimmers at the facility.

Pre-registration for the ocean swim is encouraged and filled out forms can be turned over either at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool or to the office of SSC president Robert Torres in Chalan Kiya. Completed registration forms can also be faxed at 234-5749.

Meanwhile, SSC would like to thank PIC for playing host to this year's Meek & Mighty Swim anew.

Last year, around 40 swimmers joined the annual race with SSC's very own Kento Akimaru leading the finishers in the event. Twelve-year-old Akimaru completed the longest race with the field's fastest time of 1:00:38.88. He finished the five-lap race just about 20 seconds ahead of runner-up Victoria Chentsova (1:00:57.38). Jeff El-Hajj

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Saipan Swim Club's Kento Akimaru rushes to shore to complete last year's 5K race in the Meek & Mighty Ocean Swim in the waters off Pacific Islands Club.

Ray Lewis' makeup was running

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. (AP)—Ray Lewis' makeup was running.

It was eye black, actually, that dark, oily greasepaint football players smear under their eyes to cut down on glare, but which Lewis has begun using to fashion a fearsome facemask for himself. And somewhere amid all those hugs on the field and a few tears in the locker room, it had already turned into a mess.

Lewis was sitting on a table in the Ravens' training room follow-

ing a 28-13 win over the Patriots that punched his ticket back to the Super Bowl. He pulled off his gloves first, then the nylon skull cap he wears under his helmet, staring straight ahead, enjoying a quiet moment by himself.

Then Terrell Suggs, his sidekick and fellow linebacker, burst into room bellowing, "The Ravens are going to the Super Bowl!" It

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By JIM LITKE
AP Sports Columnist

Jim Litke is a national sports columnist for The Associated Press.

